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A FINAL LOOK INSIDE THE SEEDY PONCE LANDMARK BEFORE IT GETS AN UPSCALE FACE-LIFT

BY MAX BLAU AND JOEFF DAVIS

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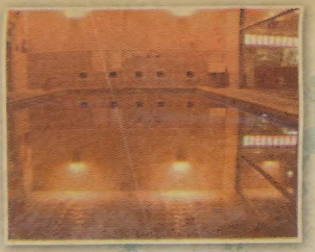

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JOEFF DAVIS

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Stop politicizing education

$547 million is nice, but Georgia schools deserve real action not just election-year ploys

JOEFF DAVIS/CL FILE

QUIT PLAYING GAMES WITH MY EDUCATION: Gov. Deal's proposed $547 million increase for the education budget doesn't come anywhere close to being able to help Georgia's broken system.

BY MAX BLAU

Gov. Nathan Deal took credit for a lot of things during his annual "State of the State" address last week. He credited himself for creating an estimated 217,000 new jobs, lowering unemployment rates, and reforming the state's criminal justice system.

Throughout his speech, he made his case for re-election. The highlight of Deal's campaign pitch was a proposed $547 million increase to the state's K-12 education budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Politicians, elections, and education spending have long gone hand in hand in Georgia. This year is no different. But that doesn't mean the public should settle for this kind of pandering. Georgia students should be a priority for state lawmakers every year, not just when it's convenient for political gain.

At first glance, the more than half-billion-dollar injection appears to be a good thing. The proposal, Deal says, would infuse cash-strapped local school districts with funds needed to eliminate furlough days, raise teacher salaries, or make other necessary improvements. His proposed budget also includes $45 million to speed up Internet connections in schools, a 103 percent increase in HOPE Grant and HOPE Scholarship funds, and numerous small increases to other education programs.

But Deal's $547 million proposal is misleading. Yes, it's the largest K-12 budget increase in more than six years. Nearly $150 million of that cash will cover the basic costs of the state's growing student population and would've been spent anyway. As critics have been quick to point out, the funding increases are a drop in the bucket for a public education system that has suffered from approximately $7.6 billion in austerity cuts since 2003.

"It's a faux-fix for education," says Bryan Long, executive director of the left-leaning political group Better Georgia. "It's an empty promise done for headlines. Education needs to be a priority. It's one of the biggest things that has gone wrong in Georgia."

Following Deal's speech, Sen. Jason Carter, D-Decatur, lambasted Georgia's Republican leadership for dismantling the state's education system in recent years. Instead, he proposed a reform to require state lawmakers to approve a separate education budget before approving remaining public funds for Georgia's government.

"Today our education budget is a shell game," Carter said.

Carter wants Georgia lawmakers to look not only at how much the state sets aside for its education budget, but also at how it spends that funding. But his proposal requires a constitutional amendment — which needs two-thirds support from the General Assembly plus voter approval in next November's election — making its approval a long shot. It's more likely state lawmakers will rubber stamp the $547 million increase in the coming days. Aside from Carter's bill, no lawmaker actually wants to split hairs over the way funding increases will happen. Who in his or her right mind would take such a political risk in the name of meaningful change, especially in an election year?

Claire Suggs, a senior education policy analyst with the Georgia Budget and Policy Institute, sees value in Deal's budget increase. But she says the state has a long way to go to fully replenish education funding, which has been cut by an annual average of more than $1 billion. Last year, school districts received $633 less per student. An estimated 71 percent of local school districts still have furlough days that prevent kids from attending school for a full 180 days.

"Georgia is falling behind other states," Suggs says. "Our kids will not catch up if we don't consider more funding."

Georgia Public Policy Foundation President and CEO Kelly McCutchen warns that Deal's proposal may only have a temporary effect. As early as next year, state lawmakers will face tough decisions as they attempt to overhaul the Quality Basic Education formula that determines how much cash local school districts receive per student. It's unclear whether that'll lead to more or less investment.

Whether we like it or not, business under the Gold Dome will probably return to usual once 2014's election season passes. It wouldn't be surprising to see conservative leaders tell schools to do "more with less," a handy Republican mantra they've turned to repeatedly throughout Deal's first term. While teacher resourcefulness can reduce wasteful spending, students have suffered because of that political directive. That mind-set needs to change.

"To be healthy, public education in Georgia needs a steady, wholesome diet of adequate funding — not a quick fix during an election year," said Verdaillia Turner, president of the Georgia Federation of Teachers, in a statement.

Georgia's approach to the classroom is in dire need of reform. The state's broken education system has led to a 71.5 percent high school graduation rate that ranks among the worst in the United States. Nearly one in five Georgia residents live in poverty, which amounts to the nation's sixth-worst poverty rate. If state lawmakers refuse to double down on education, they should be held accountable for their failures in addressing the state's biggest issues. Efforts to improve public education must happen every year, not simply in election years.

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Billboards target EAV killing suspect

Plus, EcoDistricts galore and indicted DeKalb CEO takes case to YouTube

JOEFF DAVIS

COLD CASE: Crime Stoppers is offering a $25,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of Patrick Cotrona's killer, who Atlanta Police say remains at large.

Last May, 33-year-old video game programmer *Patrick Cotrona* was shot and killed during an attempted robbery while walking from his East Atlanta home for a night out with his roommate and a friend.

With the case still unsolved, last week his family unveiled one of several billboards aimed at finally tracking down his killer, who Atlanta Police think remains at large.

"It has been nearly eight months since Patrick's murder, and the police have exhausted all leads, which means the possibility for justice seems to be fading," Kate Cotrona Krumm, Patrick's sister and one of the lead organizers in calling for increased public safety, said in a Jan. 10 open letter. "We refuse to accept this."

The billboards, which advertise a $25,000 reward for information leading to the killer's arrest, will be located along I-20 and near East Atlanta. They include the two mug shots of the man whom APD officers believe shot and killed Cotrona.

Cotrona's killing was one of several crimes in East and southeast Atlanta last year that stirred the community to call for additional police patrols, better lighting, and more social programs to prevent crime.

— THOMAS WHEATLEY

AUC, Lakewood Heights, Lithonia get EcoDistricts

Sustainable Atlanta, a nonprofit organization committed to finding balance among environmental stewardship, economic development, and social equality, has named Lakewood Heights, the Atlanta University Center, and Lithonia as participants in the first year of its Greater Atlanta EcoDistrict Initiative.

The organization plans to help launch both large and household-level projects aimed at increasing each neighborhood's sustainability. Midtown became an EcoDistrict in 2012. Similar programs have proven successful in neighborhoods in Portland, Boston, and Washington, D.C.

"This project looks at bringing sustainability down to the neighborhood level," says Sustainable Atlanta EcoDistrict Coordinator Melonie Tharpe. "We spent about a year looking over what would work for Atlanta and these three neighborhoods just really fit."

The AUC, Lakewood Heights, and Lithonia will soon begin their first year as template neighborhoods. Sustainable Atlanta plans to help guide and train community leaders interested in participating.

"The idea is not that we plan projects," says Scott Briskey, Sustainable Atlanta's director of communications. "Applicants need to know what their team is going to look like, who is going to be at the table."

Proposed projects for Lakewood Heights, a neighborhood in southeast Atlanta, include efforts to increase local food production and design youth-centered parks. Spelman College and Clark Atlanta University could reduce their power bills 20 percent by 2015 implementing various energy efficiency programs. And land-use planning could help boost Lithonia's downtown area with development and green space.

Sustainable Atlanta, which relies on community level leaders to volunteer their time and skills, is now accepting interested community's EcoDistrict applications for 2015.

— KELSEY GAY

Ellis proclaims innocence, indicted on new charges

As he waits for his day in court, suspended DeKalb County CEO Burrell Ellis has made a direct appeal to county residents on YouTube.

Last June, a grand jury indicted Ellis on 15 counts of allegedly attempting to pressure county contractors for campaign contributions. The embattled official, who has rarely addressed the corruption charges, recently decided to proclaim his innocence online.

"With God's help, I will be vindicated and return to my work as your CEO," Ellis said. "I believe that what is right will always reveal itself in the end."

During his almost three-minute defense, Ellis also stood by his public record, accused DeKalb District Attorney Robert James of trying to end his political career, and described the indictment's personal toll.

"In an attempt to find something, District Attorney Robert James bugged my most personal phone calls, including those with my wife, my children, my mother, my lawyers, and even my pastor," he said. "After being told by a member of his staff that he had violated the law and had committed criminal acts, the district attorney, in his zeal to destroy me, continued nonetheless."

Supporters have launched a legal fund to defend Ellis' name and offset expenses related to the upcoming trial.

Not long after Ellis posted his appeal, a DeKalb grand jury indicted him on new charges, including perjury, bribery, and theft by extortion, after he allegedly voided a county contract following a vendor's professional criticism.

— MAX BLAU

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Mad dad

BY LAUREN KEATING

Cops received a call about a fight in the Lakewood area. A 27-year-old woman claimed her father punched her face during an argument. Police spoke with the father, 49, who said he was bipolar and did not punch his daughter. The father was "very upset and making unbelievable comments and references," the officer wrote. "This led me to believe [he] was not mentally stable." According to the police report, the man said he's "the leader of the KKK, he was a Fulton County Superior Court Judge, [and] he was a billionaire in the music industry." The daughter had no visible injuries. The cop arrested the father and took him to jail on a disorderly conduct charge.

Strip-down in Midtown

In Midtown, a 28-year-old man was "taking off all his clothing and running into the parking deck with only his underwear on," an officer wrote. Cops grabbed the nearly nude man and tried to put him in a patrol car. "He began to raise his voice … and stiffened his legs in an attempt to remain outside the vehicle," the officer noted. "Myself and the extra job unit had to force the accused into the vehicle by carrying his legs and placing him into the car." The man went to jail on a disorderly conduct charge.

Strange vibrations

A blue suitcase making a humming noise freaked people out at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport. A baggage handler said that as he removed the blue suitcase from the carousel he heard a "vibrating" sound coming from inside. He notified his boss, who immediately called 911. Cops and TSA agents rushed in and the area was roped off until the luggage could be cleared. A police officer brought his K-9 German shepherd in to sniff the blue suitcase, but the dog did not smell anything unusual. "The baggage was still vibrating," the cop noted. Fire crews and bomb techs arrived and slowly examined the suitcase. According to the police report, "It was determined that the vibrating sound coming from the luggage was a toothbrush."

Smart-ass stroll

In Buckhead, a thin man reeking of alcohol was walking in traffic on Pharr Road. A cop responded to deal with the wanderer and waxed poetic in his description of the unsteady man. The cop wrote, "While standing still, the male's upper body was swaying back and forth, like a tree limb in a strong wind." The cop asked the man for his ID. "The male slowly and with deliberate effort, patted himself twice and then stated he did not have his license," the officer wrote. During arrest, the cop patted him down and found his Georgia driver's license, wallet, and cell phone in his coat pocket. Apparently, the man had been warned earlier to stop strolling in traffic. Another cop said that a few hours ago, he asked the same man what the heck was he doing in the middle of the street. "Being an asshole," he replied. The man, 23, was charged with "pedestrian under the influence."

Frugal traveler

A man was accused of swiping whipped cream and yogurt from a hotel near Turner Field. When cops arrived, the man was casually eating breakfast at the hotel restaurant. Surveillance video apparently shows the man sneaking into the kitchen, grabbing a can of whipped cream, and squirting cream into his coffee. Also, the tape shows the man taking a cup of yogurt from the restaurant's kitchen. A police officer asked: Are you a guest in this hotel? No, the man said, he's just passing through on his way to Charlotte. The man hails from West Palm Beach, Fla. Apparently, he'd been hanging out at the hotel for several days.

Decorum discord

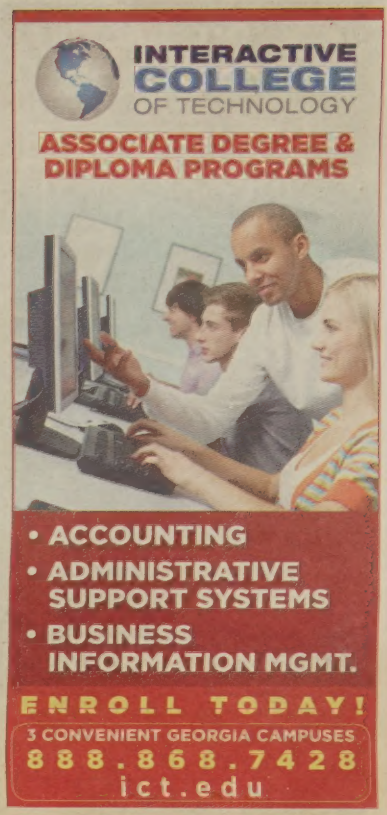
A Las Vegas man demanded a police report about the dress code at a Buckhead restaurant. The man said the restaurant manager asked him to remove his hat before dining at the restaurant, but he refused. The manager said it was a standing policy for all patrons to dine without hats and pointed to a sign posted at the entrance. Outraged, the Las Vegas man called police. A cop dutifully went to the restaurant and wrote a report about the incident. The cop told the Las Vegas man this was not a crime, but a civil dispute that he could take up in court.

Breakfast of champions

In the Lindbergh area, a police officer saw a silver car run through a red light on Piedmont Road. The cop pulled the car over and spoke with the driver, a 40-year-old Norcross woman with watery eyes. The cop asked her how much she'd had to drink. The woman replied, "A few Bloody Marys this morning at 9 a.m. for my retirement." The woman refused to do any field sobriety tests, saying, "Take me to jail or give me a ticket, because I am not taking any test." The cop took her to jail on a DUI charge.

Items in the Blotter *are taken from actual Atlanta police reports. The Blotter Diva compiles them and puts them into her own words.*

More on the Web: More bizarre crimes from Atlanta police reports at clatl.com



Locked and loaded

Proposal would nullify future federal firearm laws in Georgia

JOEFF DAVIS/CL FILE

SHOOTIN' IRONS: Bill would allow state Attorney General to defend Georgians in court.

BY MAX BLAU

It was no secret that Second Amendment advocates would call for legislation allowing gun owners to carry firearms on college campuses. Such proposals expanding gun rights are virtually guaranteed during an election year.

But several GOP state lawmakers have a more, how do you say, *comprehensive* proposal — one that would nullify future federal firearms regulations in Georgia.

State Rep. Tom Kirby, R-Loganville, introduced a new bill last week that would significantly limit the impact of future federal gun regulations across the state. If passed, the measure would prohibit public officials and firearms dealers from complying with federal firearms laws or regulations "relating to a firearm, firearm accessory, or ammunition that is sold, owned, or manufactured commercially or privately in Georgia." It would effectively make it against the law to follow a federal law.

The proposal, which is co-sponsored by state Reps. Delvis Dutton of Glennville, Paulette Braddock of Powder Springs, Kevin Cooke of Carrollton, David Stover of Newnan, and Trey Kelley of Cedartown, specifically attempts to override semi-automatic, magazine clip, and gun sales restrictions handed down from Washington, D.C. The measure even empowers the state Attorney General to defend Georgians in court should they be charged with federal gun law violations in the state.

Kirby says the national gun control debate in Washington prompted him to introduce the bill. Over the past few years, he says, his constituents have expressed concerns over the way some federal lawmakers have "chipped away or eroded" the constitutional rights enacted by the nation's Founding Fathers.

"It's sad that we need a bill like this," Kirby says. "We want to remind Congress that they don't have the right to violate the Second Amendment more than anyone else."

State Sen. Vincent Fort, D-Atlanta, who last year unsuccessfully advocated for a statewide assault weapon ban, says that Kirby's bill "flies in the face" of past U.S. Supreme Court precedents that have already laid out state rights for gun regulations. Fort thinks Georgia should push to enact stronger gun-safety measures, not loosening laws further to make a political point.

"It's unfortunate when people need health care, jobs, and affordable housing, it's unfortunate that this right-wing crowd making these kind of extremist, ideological statements," Fort says.

According to Kirby, state Rep. Wendell Willard, R-Sandy Springs, has agreed to schedule the bill for an upcoming House Judiciary Committee hearing.

CL contacted Georgia Carry, one of the Gold Dome's most vocal Second Amendment advocacy groups, but did not hear back. A request for comment to the Georgia chapter of Moms Demand Action, a nationwide group pushing for gun control, was not returned.

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A 31-acre question mark

Nonprofit: We haven't forgotten mammoth property in SW ATL

THOMAS WHEATLEY/CL FILE

BIG ASPHALT: Economy halted plans to develop mammoth parcel along Beltline.

BY THOMAS WHEATLEY

In 2006, the Annie E. Casey Foundation purchased a 31-acre piece of property along the Atlanta Beltline near Capitol View with plans to build a development that would stitch together — and potentially help stabilize — several southwest Atlanta neighborhoods, especially Pittsburgh. But the asphalt expanse on University Avenue in southwest Atlanta has not changed much. Local residents hoped for a mixed-use development that includes the basics — a grocery store, for example — but it never happened.

Well, there's good news and bad news. The bad news is that the Baltimore-based foundation, which has made a mission of filling Mechanicsville, Peoplestown, and Pittsburgh's glut of vacant homes and helping its children excel in school, has not yet partnered with a developer to build on the former UPS-owned site. But the nonprofit, which focuses on boosting families and children living on low incomes, says it's "absolutely committed" to the project.

At a Capitol View Manor Neighborhood Association meeting on Jan. 14, Moki Macias, the Casey Foundation's director of community building, briefed skeptical residents on the property. Over the years, a variety of ideas have been discussed, including light-industrial uses and a commercial and residential complex. But those plans failed to materialize when the economy tanked. In addition, the foundation's effort to stabilize the adjacent neighborhoods is still in the works. Since then the foundation has assessed the former trucking company site's environmental issues — it's a brownfield — and tore down 60 percent of the buildings to make the property more attractive and prepared for development.

Macias said the nonprofit has been studying the property's potential. On Jan. 23 at 5:30 p.m., nonprofit officials will share a market feasibility study about the property at Gideons Elementary School. They'll also ask for residents' ideas. The study will help create a "calling card" that the foundation could use to attract developers. They're focusing first and foremost on attracting proposals that could bring jobs — preferably ones that could be filled by residents from nearby communities.

Landing the right development is a classic chicken-or-egg scenario. Developers might hesitate to move somewhere with high unemployment and low job skills. However, those woes might not be fixed until a company locates nearby or jobs open up. A developer partner is leading the Casey foundation's effort to purchase, rehab, and sell once-vacant homes to help repopulate Pittsburgh, which was one of several southwest Atlanta neighborhoods hit hard by mortgage fraud during the housing boom.

In the meantime, Macias wants residents' ideas for how to be a better neighbor. That could include anything from public art on the fence running along University Avenue — it's partnered with WonderRoot on a project — or some other interim use of the property. To attend the Jan. 23 meeting, call 404-222-3675.

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CREATIVE LOAFING

Gladwell's critics need David's faith

Publishing industry Goliath's epic battles with detractors throw monkey wrench in his own pop theory

BY RODNEY CARMICHAEL

In the introduction to his latest volume of counterintuitive reasoning, Malcolm Gladwell describes *David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants* as "a book about what happens when ordinary people confront giants." He spends the next 270 pages attempting to methodically convince readers why underdogs, contrary to popular belief, often have the advantage in such battles. Of course, that logic does not seem to apply when Gladwell is cast as Goliath.

So many have slung mud in his direction in recent years that it's hard not to pile on. Take that crazy hair for starters: Is it more Phil Spector on trial for murder or Sideshow Bob from "The Simpsons"? Then there are the questionable ethics: A journalist making $80,000, according to *New York* magazine, for a corporate speaking gig? That just sounds like a conflict of interest. And don't forget the formulaic writing style: Is there any contemporary writer guiltier of overusing the royal "we"? Apparently, we think not.

Critics gonna critique, as the saying goes. And the substance of Gladwell's critiques is that he relies too heavily on oversimplified social theory sewn together with compelling anecdotes and unquantifiable optimism. Though his detractors continue to grow, they still pale in comparison to the legion of readers who have snatched up a combined total of 5 million copies of his previous releases. The *New Yorker* scribe and best-selling author's continued obsession with psychosocial phenomena has turned him into a pop phenomenon in his own right — and an apparent exception to his latest rule.

In his new book, Gladwell reinterprets the boy-soldier David, with his speed and agility, as the predicted winner over the lumbering giant Goliath in the age-old tale. He illustrates the advantages of the seemingly disadvantaged in a modern context by using the stories of such underdogs as Vivek Ranadivé, an Indian-born software magnate in Silicon Valley who coaches his daughter's outclassed basketball team to a state championship by turning their offensive weaknesses into defensive strengths.

When publisher Little, Brown and Company released *David and Goliath* last October, the publicity rollout included a "60 Minutes" profile by Anderson Cooper. The televised version was mostly glowing. But in an extra online clip, Gladwell responded with self-deprecation to criticism that he fails to credit the work of social scientists whose theories he borrows and popularizes for non-academics.

"I'm perhaps as befuddled at my success as my critics are. So, in that respect I see eye to eye with them," he told Cooper.

But he penned a harsher response to the research psychologist who questioned in the *Wall Street Journal* and *Slate* "whether [Gladwell] is accurately conveying the science" behind his "big ideas."

"Chris Chabris Should Calm Down," Gladwell titled the piece, which also ran on *Slate*. Using his narrative skills and a little Internet research — which uncovered another scathing blog post by Chabris' wife Michelle Meyer — Gladwell threw a personal jab to mock the couple's impassioned crusade against him.

"'Gladwell is a bullshitter,' the blog post concludes," noted Gladwell. "I clearly drive her crazy, too. These are not tranquil times in the Meyer-Chabris household."

Perhaps part of the reason for the vehement backlash against Gladwell is because his oversimplified laws of human nature, be they rooted in science or storytelling, simply don't work for everyone. It's the reason why he's more likely to garner comparisons to such self-help gurus as Dale Carnegie than psychologists like Richard Nisbett, whom he credited in a *New York Times Book Review* interview as "the most influential thinker" in his life.

BILL WADMAN

LIKE A PRAYER: Über-successful writer Malcolm Gladwell returned to his Christian Mennonite roots while writing *David and Goliath*.

As his latest book title suggests, his underdog theory is based in faith as much as fact. Raised a Christian Mennonite evangelical in rural Ontario, the biracial son of a Jamaican mother and English father admits to returning to his own faith while writing *David and Goliath*.

"I realized what I had missed," he told *Religious News Service* last October. "It was a slow realization [of] something incredibly powerful and beautiful in the faith that I grew up with that I was missing. Here I was writing about people of extraordinary circumstances and it slowly dawned on me that I can have that too."

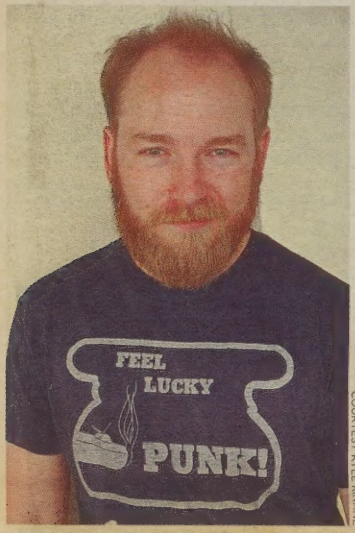
Maybe Gladwell's would-be Davids could also use a little faith to bring the Goliath of the publishing world down to size. If they're successful, it might even earn them a chapter in his next best-seller.

RODNEY.CARMICHAEL@CREATIVELOAFING.COM

Malcolm Gladwell
$45-$100. 8 p.m. Wed., Jan. 29. Atlanta Symphony Hall, 1280 Peachtree St. 404-733-4200. woodruffcenter.org.

Keeping up the pace

Comedian Kyle Kinane talks 'Drunk History' and stand-up life



COURTESY KYLE KINANE

FUNNY DRUNK: Comedian Kyle Kinane

BY AUSTIN L. RAY

Kyle Kinane has released two hilarious albums, 2010's *Death of the Party* and 2012's *Whiskey Icarus*, each filled with his charmingly everyman meditations on Bob Seger, fornicating rabbits, and ordering pizza. His raspy-voiced tales can last up to 10 minutes at a time, and they manage to translate life's everyday absurdities into relatable, uproarious events.

The Los Angeles-by-way-of-Chicago funnyman has been touring relentlessly and hopes to record a new special in the spring. Meanwhile, he's somehow found time to serve as the voice of Comedy Central's promos since 2011, tell the Haymarket Affair's story on "Drunk History" before puking his guts out on television, and appear alongside Zach Galifianakis, Larry David, Bob Odenkirk, and others in the animated series "TripTank." *Creative Loafing* called him up recently to talk about finding weirdos and his 15th year of comedy, among other things.

Kyle Kinane
$18-$28. Jan. 23-26.
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laughingskulllounge.com.

I read an interview where you said you no longer work a day job, but that you used to meet lots of weirdos through day jobs. How do you make sure you're still finding the weirdos?

So much of my life is spent in airports. Meeting drunks in bars, if you do that enough in your life, they start falling into familiar categories. Usually, now, it's in the midst of travel. An airport will collect a pack of weirdos not normally seen in one place. ... I'm actually trying to isolate myself more, find out what kind of weirdo I am. Sometimes you gotta point the scope inward.

This is your 15th year of stand-up comedy. How does that make you feel?

I've never committed to anything else this long. I think it's fantastic and I sure hope there's no way to completely bottom out. The coastline of a standard adulthood has finally dipped beyond the horizon. Five years in, I was like, "I can still get a regular job." Ten years in: "I could still get a day job. If I gotta turn this around, I could still do [something else]." Now it's like I ... don't have anything else. This has to be it, or something that stems from this.

Can you tell me a about "Drunk History"? What's the process like?

They tell you when they're gonna be over, then you can gauge how much longer before they arrive that you'll start drinking. So they told me, and I was like, "OK, I'll start having a couple cocktails." And a couple of cocktails turned into a bottle of tequila. And the tequila turned into a garbage bag full of barf on television. They taped it at my apartment, and I woke up the next day. They had cleaned up everything, but it was one of those weird moments of walking around like, "I know something happened here last night, but I don't remember what." I didn't remember the details. But fortunately, they taped them and showed them on TV so everybody else got to relive them with me.

OK, final question: Who is Kendrick Lamar?

Who isn't Kendrick Lamar?! I'm preserving my own innocence by not finding out who Kendrick Lamar is. I will not research it. This is my Moby Dick, except that I'm not looking for Moby Dick at all. I'm a landlocked Captain Ahab going, "That whale's out there, and good for him!"

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Sight unseen

Ralph Fiennes stars and directs this story of Dickens and his forgotten lover

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SERIAL LOVE: Felicity Jones as Nelly Ternan and Ralph Fiennes as Charles Dickens

BY ANDREW ALEXANDER

The Invisible Woman is not an action movie about an X-Men-style mutant but a dramatic account of the real life of Ellen "Nelly" Ternan, the young actress who became the mistress of an unhappily married Charles Dickens. Dickens himself lived very much in the public eye, but Ternan, 27 years his junior, remained so hidden that she was all but erased from public memory. Author and historian Claire Tomalin sought to reconstruct a portrait of Ternan's life and 13-year relationship with Dickens. The new film, based on Tomalin's 1990 book and sharing its title, is the second directorial effort by actor Ralph Fiennes after 2011's very fine *Coriolanus*.

Fiennes also takes on the role of Dickens, and he's especially skilled at conveying a sense of Dickens' effortless charm and child-like enthusiasms, which are balanced — and perhaps made even more attractive — by a sense of his growing world-weariness, even misanthropy. Cinematograper Rob Hardy accomplishes something extraordinary by giving the film a sumptuous period look that never seems overly fussy, precious, or affected; he has an understanding of Victorian spaces, the creaky theaters, rocky high roads, opulent drawing rooms, shaky carriages, and cramped flats that become the public stages and all-too-rare private spaces where the drama plays out. Felicity Jones brings a smart, modern sensibility to what could easily have become an empty feminist take on dull Victorian forbearance. There is existential awareness about her condition, its injustices as well as its advantages. Jones and Fiennes don't exactly create white-hot romantic sparks, but they do give a beautiful sense of the pair's tortured and tentative approach to the affair, a few stolen happy moments, the inevitable challenges, and final dissolution.

Dickens was one of the first people to become famous in the modern sense, and his enormous artistic talent is one of the forces that draws Jones' Ternan to him, but his fame ironically becomes one of the central forces pulling them apart. In one of the film's best scenes, the couple must pretend to be strangers after the train they're riding on derails. At the end of the film, when Ternan finally unburdens her heart about the secret affair by confessing to a priest, she doesn't weep for her lost love, her sin, or the lies she's told (it's not mentioned in the film as such, but after Dickens' death, the real Ternan presented herself as 14 years younger than she really was to a young man who became her husband), she weeps instead for the altered ending of *Great Expectations*. Even the priest (an unintentionally creepy John Kavanagh) turns out to be a bit of a star-fucker, yammering on about Dickens' greatness. The end of the film shows Ternan settling into an unremarkable, prosaic, but understandably happier private life.

The Invisible Woman
★★★☆☆
Starring Ralph Fiennes, Felicity Jones. Directed by Ralph Fiennes. Opens Fri., Jan. 24. Rated R. At area theaters.

Fiennes and Kristin Scott Thomas made one of the most memorable romantic couples in film history when they appeared together in the 1996 Oscar-winning film *The English Patient*, so it's curious to see them reunited on screen 18 years later in very different roles. Here, Fiennes remains the romantic lead, while Thomas takes on the part of the careworn matron. Future historians and filmmakers can perhaps dramatically reconstruct the invisible but significant moment when one of the most beautiful and talented actresses of our time was asked to play the ingenue's mother opposite her former leading man.

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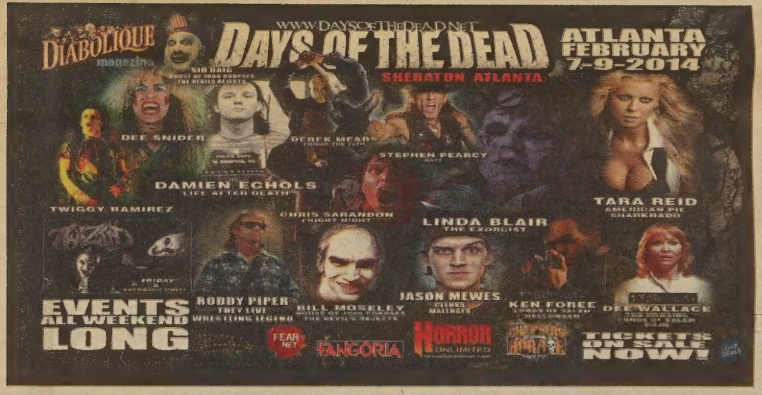

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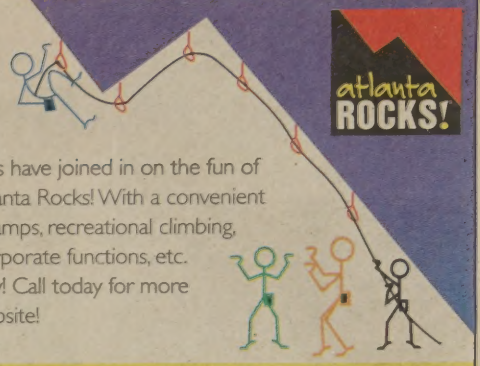

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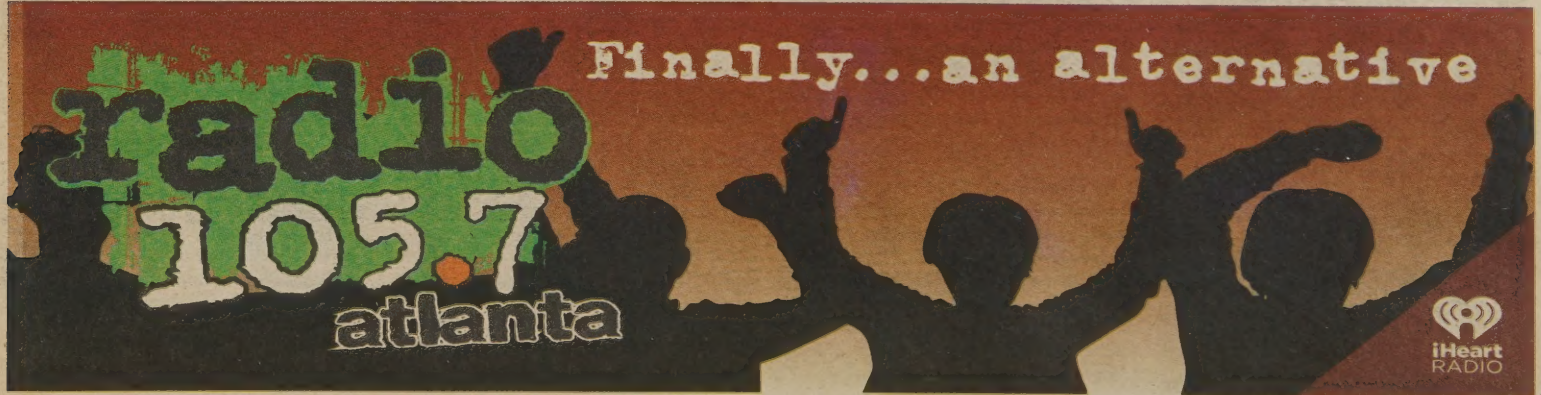

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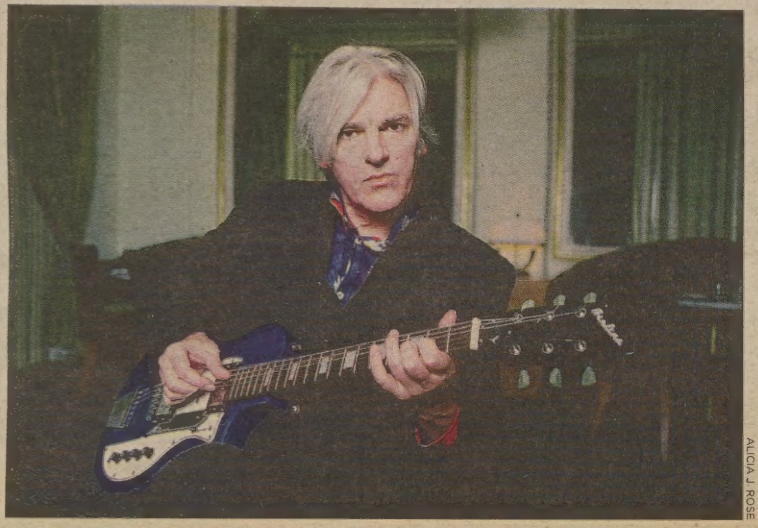
Robyn Hitchcock: In it for the long haul

The singer/songwriter reflects on success and music after death



ALICIA J. ROSE

GROOVY DECAY: Robyn Hitchcock isn't ready to pass the baton just yet.

BY KEVIN FOREST MOREAU

Robyn Hitchcock's *Love from London* (Yep Roc) found the British singer/songwriter in a reflective mood befitting an artist who turned 60 just days before the album arrived. Sanding down the overt lyrical surrealism, and the jangly psychedelic guitar-rock of his best-known works, it's a compelling, understated album, anchored by vivid imagery and thoughtful contemplations of love and mortality ("Death and Love," "End of Time," and the rather straightforward "I Love You"). On the eve of a pair of solo shows at Eddie's Attic, Hitchcock discussed a four-decade career that has spawned more than two dozen albums with the seminal early '80s group the Soft Boys, the Egyptians, the Venus 3 (with R.E.M.'s Peter Buck), and as a solo artist. He also shared his thoughts on his place in the musical landscape, and his hopes for the future.

A lot of press for* Love from London *focused as much on your 60th birthday as on the album itself. Do you get the sense that you're becoming a kind of elder statesman?

People know me from the past, some of them, and so I remind them of their own history. Others know I was there when I was younger, back in the cassette age, and I could well seem like a gray-bearded elder to them. If I grew a beard, it would be gray now, for sure. I'm older than Jerry Garcia lived to be.

How has your relationship with writing and playing music changed since you started out?

It's much more familiar to me now. I know where the bends in the road are, and where you go over the precipice if you aren't careful. Does that make me more careful? I don't know. Is a younger fisherman more exciting than an older fisherman? It doesn't necessarily follow that the fish are any older.

How has your music has changed over the years?

It's probably slower, wiser, less inventive, less derivative, and generally less manic. Deeper but duller. More empathic.

What is your place in the rock/musical firmament?

My position is that of any artist: I am a link between one time and another. You take the baton from the older guys and pass it on to the young. But the baton changes shape and color as it passes from hand to hand. The baton is our culture, or a fragment thereof, and even as we live and die, our culture adapts and mutates. Maybe it's our culture that is the true life-form, not us. Maybe we will be the mythical ancestor gods of the computer race. Or just known as the species that gave the universe the Bee Gees.

Have you ever felt you haven't received the attention or commercial success you're were due?

I never expected — or wanted, really — to achieve success the way that, say, R.E.M. did; but my brushes with major labels and the business generally back in the tape age made me a bit greedy, and I aimed for a while at things I didn't need. But it was OK; I missed. I'm in it for the long haul, like John Lee Hooker and [British folk singer] Martin Carthy. But who says no to more money, or a larger audience?

What can audiences expect from your shows at Eddie's Attic?

I'll be playing my acoustic guitar and singing songs of mine from 1979 to the present day. I will try not to play too much harmonica. The encores tend to take a different approach from the main set, if we get that far. I love playing acoustic guitar more than ever, and I think I inhabit my voice more than I did.

Are you working on new material?

I have a new record out later in the year, produced by Joe Boyd — the man who nurtured Nick Drake, Pink Floyd, the Incredible String Band, and Fairport Convention, among others. It features half cover songs and half my own. It's acoustic with a female harmony, cello, and occasionally a piano. There's no drums, not even artificial ones. It's called *The Man Upstairs*, and will be available from Yep Roc as an LP, download, and CD.

You've said that rock is an old man's game these days, with artists like the Rolling Stones dominating the concert business. How long do you plan to keep writing and performing?

The cutoff point is when and if I am physically incapable of composing and performing. I hope I never see the cutoff point. I might stop touring any time, but I plan to keep writing and recording up to and beyond my death, by whatever means necessary: a soul transplant or turning into an app, like iCock or something.

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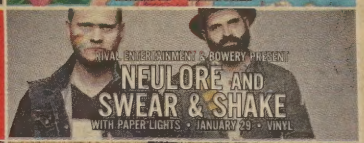

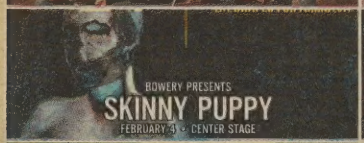

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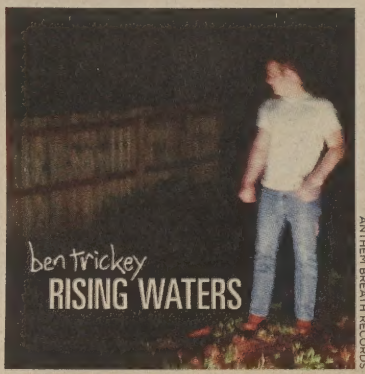
Dark water rising

Ben Trickey's latest is a sentimental apocalypse



IN DARKNESS: Ben Trickey's *Rising Waters*

BY CHAD RADFORD

Above and beyond everything else, Ben Trickey's fifth and latest offering, *Rising Waters*, is a breakup record. It's also the first album he's made in a studio. The glowing resonance of each instrument and the vulnerability in his voice ring out with clarity, sculpting the sentimental peaks and valleys of these 10 songs. From the anxious rush of emotions and acoustic jitters that set the record's tone on "The End of It All," to the lilting melodies packed into such numbers as "Dance Slow" and "The Running Ones," denial, depression, anger, and healing play out with heartbreaking tension. Vibrato hangs on every vowel that Trickey draws out when he sings, and when his melancholy ruminations transform from an exasperated growl to a scream, catharsis takes the reins.

It's a new vocal dynamic for Trickey, and while the passion in his delivery can, at times, walk a fine line between sincerity and schmaltz, he never allows melodrama to eclipse the emotional gravitas of the album. Rather than recoiling in pain over his sentimental apocalypse, Trickey reconciles his feelings with real-time perseverance.

It goes without saying that Trickey's wearing his emotions on his sleeve throughout *Rising Waters*, but the underlying narrative woven into such songs as "Don't Tell Anyone" and "Crescendo" — the latter being the most beautifully crushing song on the record — is about accepting the loss of love in a way that feels both naked and real.

Each song functions as its own chapter throughout *Rising Waters*, wrapped in allegories or disguised with such rich imagery that Trickey's use of language takes a bit of the sting out of his wounds along the way. But when he sings, "No matter how thick your skin gets, the world will find a way to open up your veins and watch as you bleed all over it" on "Alright," the raw emotion on display becomes palpable.

Much of *Rising Waters* was penned and arranged by Trickey, and each song appears in the order in which he wrote them, underscoring the immediacy that drives the record. Will Raines, whose credits include piano, upright bass, cello, and accordion, had a hand in arranging the album's string parts, culminating in a marked change from the often noisy and lo-fi country tendencies of Trickey's 2010 LP *Come On, Hold On*.

Raines' talents shine the brightest on "Dance Slow." Together with vocalist Tiffany Leigh Blalock, who until recently sang with Atlanta-based Americana act Waller, the two add a climactic aural backdrop to Trickey's bellowing voice. The song's sometimes sweet, sometimes abrasive chorus swells to an ecstatic peak before crashing headlong into a sonic mire of tape hiss. It's an abrasive jump that makes nothing easy along this dense musical journey. At times *Rising Waters* feels like an apology, but the mordant lyrics and Trickey's forlorn poetry fall perfectly in lockstep with the album's sparse arrangements.

Ben Trickey
With Madeline and Montanus. $7. 8:30 p.m. Wed., Jan. 29. The Earl, 488 Flat Shoals Ave. 404-522-3950. www.badearl.com.

In many ways, *Rising Waters* summons a damaged, surreal darkness reminiscent of such post-songwriter fare as Bonnie "Prince" Billy and Matt Sweeney's *Superwolf*, or Low's *Things We Lost in the Fire*. Trickey's writing is unrefined by comparison, but he's on the right track. As such, *Rising Waters* is one of the most tense, atmospheric, and downright gloomy records to come out of Atlanta in a long time. It's a perfect match for its winter release date. *Rising Waters'* clear and personal sense of desolation are a means to an end, giving way to a slowly rising air of hope, making it Trickey's most compelling album yet. ★★★½☆

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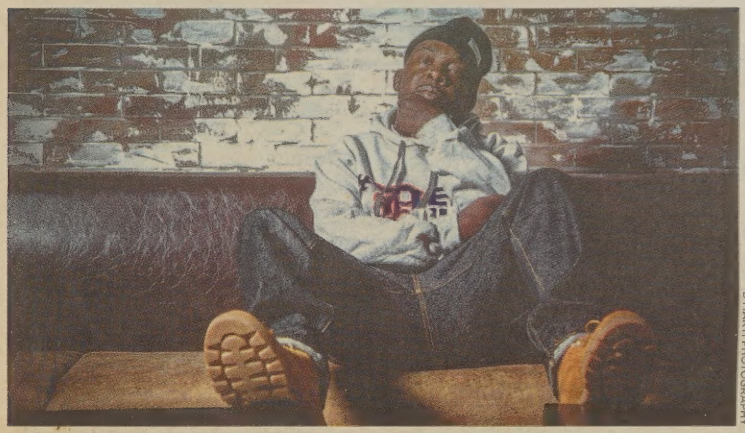
J Dilla remembered

Phife/Rasta Root honor Jay Dee, and more ATL music news



D'MARTI PHOTOGRAPHY

PAYING RESPECT: Phife Dawg starts a conversation with "#dearDilla."

BY CHAD RADFORD

The five-foot assassin returns! Malik Isaac Taylor, aka **Phife Dawg of A Tribe Called Quest**, has teamed up with DJ **Rasta Root** to release "#dearDilla," a new single that pays homage to iconic hip-hop producer **J Dilla**.

Released Jan. 21 via Smokin' Needles, "#dearDilla" is the first glimpse at Phife's forthcoming album, *MUTTYmorPHosis*. The song is an open letter to Dilla, who died in 2006 of complications related to a blood disorder called thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (TTP). "Before J Dilla passed, he and I were playing phone tag. I didn't even know he was that sick until it was too late," Phife says in a statement about the single.

For several years, Phife has suffered though his own health problems with diabetes. "We didn't realize we were both going through a lot with our health and never got to sit and talk about it together. This song is that conversation."

A video for "#dearDilla," directed by **Konee Rok**, will premiere at the Midtown Art Cinema on Feb. 6 at 7:30 p.m., followed by a Q&A. The following day, they're screening the video in Detroit for Dilla Day.

Quad, the Midtown EDM nightclub, is closed until further notice, according to its Facebook and co-owner **Rick Day**, who founded and runs the Spring4th Complex. Day is selling the complex partially due to personal health issues, he says.

Original ATLiens **Andre 3000 and Big Boi of OutKast** will take the stage together for this year's **CounterPoint** festival in Kingston Downs, Ga. More than 75 acts will perform at this year's fest, taking place the weekend of April 25-27, on a 5,000-acre location roughly an hour northwest of Atlanta. There is no news yet regarding any other OutKast shows inside the Perimeter, so this is currently the duo's closest Atlanta stop on its announced tour of 40+ festivals.

Curtis Harding of the group **Night Sun** is featured as part of Saint Laurent's Music Project. SLP has also produced a video for one of Harding's solo numbers called "Next Time."

The Head is recording a new single with **Big Star drummer Jody Stephens** at Memphis' Ardent Studios.

Christopher White of **Magicicada** is behind a Southern experimental music series dubbed **Mission Trips**, which will rally artists for semi-monthly CDs/zine projects limited to 50 copies per release, with cover illustrations by **Emma Ball**. Magicicada's *Wrack with Ruin*, and ***Barter*** by **Currency** are up for February. **Ramble Tamble** (Guardian Alien), **Lindsay Smith**, and others have music set to be released as part of the series as well.

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Additional reporting by Sonam Vashi.

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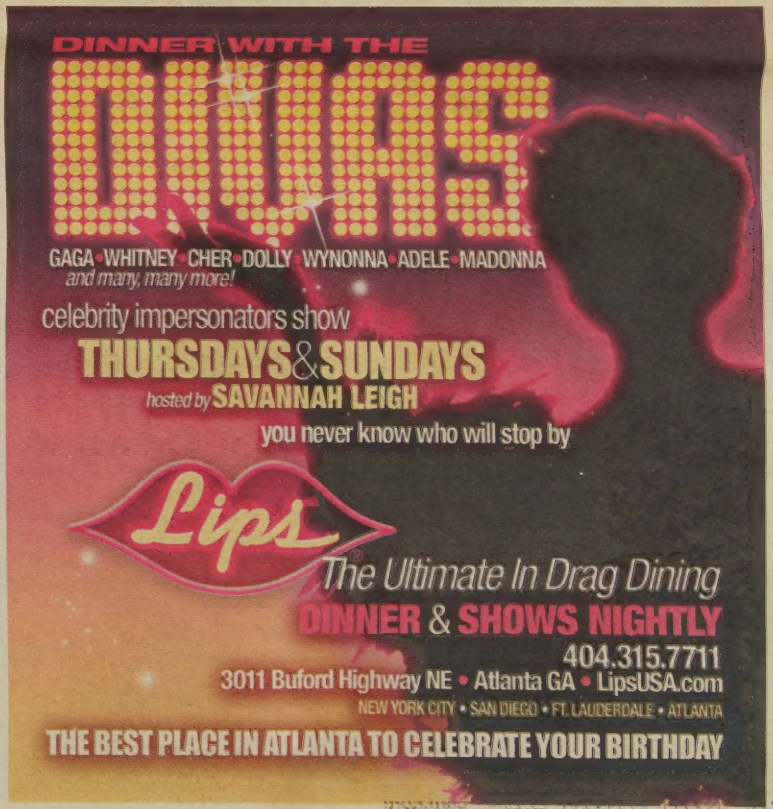
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BY CLIFF BOSTOCK

It was 1980. I'd checked into a $10-a-night motel room in Gibsonton, Fla., where many of the nation's carnival people resided when not on the road. On a writing assignment, my particular goal was meeting sideshow performers, those human anomalies whose performances in rural American carnivals and fairs cast a dark spell, a call to compassion more compelling and convincing than the sweaty rhetoric of countless evangelists pissing on the flames of hell.

Every visit to Gibsonton — I made several over the years — turned into an adventure. Food was among them. It was in Gibsonton that I ate my first and last corn dog, until my recent visit to the new Pallookaville Fine Foods in Avondale Estates.

It's hard to describe how much I hated the idea of corn dogs when I had my first in Gibsonton. Hot dogs made me instantly sick when I was a kid and the sight of one impaled on a stick, wrapped in charred cornmeal, and dripping with grease was especially nauseating. All my instincts were validated in Gibsonton, when a bartender plopped a complimentary one — happy hour! — in front of a drunk me. I decided to give it a try and, well, I died.

So, decades later, I heard about Jim Stacy's Pallookaville food truck, saw a few video clips of him on TV, and was super impressed. His résumé includes work as a clown, tattoo artist, and carnival worker. He's wonderfully funny, articulate, and kind. He acknowledges that corn dogs are "worse than fast food," but loves the challenge of making "something gourmet of something that lowly." Stacy is a master of kitsch — that low-grade aesthetic that can be at once vile and lovable.

You'll see what I mean the instant you walk through Pallookaville's door. There are cases of strange little toys that might have been prizes at midway games. There are circus posters and a warning to "behave yourself" from a nun brandishing a ruler. I didn't see any images of Joe Palooka, the comic-book boxer that I assume gives the restaurant its name (despite the different spelling). There is, however, a gaudy portrait of boxer Muhammad Ali next to one of Col. Sanders over the front door.

Armed with my bottle of gastrointestinal pills, I decided to try a corn dog, as did most of my friends during my initial visit. You choose your sausage: a beef frank (Corndogula), Polish kielbasa (Corndogski), or Italian (Cornleone). Then, if you like, you can tweak the golden cornbread batter by double-dipping it or adding pepper or cheese.

I ordered the Fryinstein Monster, featuring a link of each sausage. It arrived at the table looking like a mutant, elongated hushpuppy impaled on a stick. I bit into it and was amazed. The cornbread coating was sweet, slightly crisp, and crumbly. I'd be happy with a huge wedge of it and a bowl of potlikker. Then I bit into the frank. Sorry. I just will never really dig plain American hot dogs, even when boiled in beer and made by fussy butchers. Things got much better with the kielbasa. The Italian sausage was my favorite and brought back memories of carney food trucks. You can also order the sausages (plus a Patak footlong) on bread without the cornbread coating.

Pallookaville Fine Foods
17 N. Avondale Plaza.
404-500-1785.
pallookaville.com.

Let's not make total pretend. Beside the salads for your vegetarian friends, you're not going to eat anything at Pallookaville that doesn't ooze fat. That's part of the cuisine, of course, and I'm only warning you because if you order a corn dog, particularly the Fryinstein, you're going to have difficulty eating much of anything else. I suggest the tater tots instead of the fries. The hand-cut russets were limp and way, way greasy. You can, for a dollar or so extra, doll them up with cheese, grilled onions, and jalapeños. Or you can have them poutined with cheese curds and gravy.

JAMES CAMP

MONSTER MASH-UP: The Fryinstein Monster corn dog made with beef frank, Polish kielbasa, and Italian sausage

I decided to make my gut bomb thermonuclear by also ordering a quarter-pound burger. Stacy makes his patties with fresh pork, including bacon, from pedigreed pigs. The effect is a little like breakfast sausage on the first bite (and you can top it with a fried egg). But with each bite, the mildly spicy flavor ascends. This is a burger and you are dining with Meatloaf.

I returned for a quick lunch a few days later and ordered a Reuben made with the house-cured pastrami (corned beef is also available). I got the quarter-pound size instead of the half-pounder. The meat is about perfect. While Stacy's menu warns that corned beef and pastrami are made from fatty beef brisket, I loved the pastrami specifically because it wasn't ultra-greasy.

Stacy's greatest alchemy du kitsch may be his milk shake specials. They're sweet and spicy-hot. I ordered one that was made with coffee ice cream, molasses, toasted coconut, candied ginger, and — sit down — Sriracha sauce. Most of the latter was in a dollop at the bottom of my glass. I still haven't made up my mind about it. I loved it and I kind of hated it — just the effect of kitsch.

I love Pallookaville. It's pure fun and it's a window to the American aesthetic of carnival kitsch that's probably unknown to most at this point. Come one, come all! You'll be amazed! Only $4.50 for a corn dog that won't kill you!

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Magical mullet

Chasing down smoked mullet roe and mullet bottarga in Cortez, Florida

BRAD KAPLAN

GONE FISHIN': Mullet for sale along the Florida coast.

BY BRAD KAPLAN

Leave it to John T. Edge to celebrate artisans of mullet (the fish, not the haircut). Back in July, Edge, the director of the Southern Foodways Alliance, penned a piece for the *New York Times* about a small Cortez, Fla., outfit trying to turn the local mullet harvest into gold by salt-curing the roe in the manner of Italian bottarga. Then, in December, Edge included a salad topped with smoked mullet roe from a Cortez pizzeria in his roundup of the year's best dishes for *Garden & Gun* magazine. I happen to get down to the area near Cortez once a year or so, and I'm always on the lookout for local food finds. This year I had to put mullet roe on my list.

Mullet is typically found at fish markets along the Gulf Coast, mainly in the form of smoked mullet dip heavy on the cream cheese and served with saltines. In the pecking order of Gulf fish deliciousness, mullet falls a few notches above cellar dwellers like ladyfish, but far from the upper echelons where pompano and grouper reign. So finding mullet making the transition to gourmet ingredient brings a smirk to most locals' faces. Mullet? Really?

But Edge's description of the mullet roe-graced Cortez wedge salad at Village Idiot Pizzeria was enticing:

"Take a Caesar salad for a walk down a sandy lane, toward a buttonwood-tree-tangled bay on the Gulf Coast of Florida. By the time you reach the end of the pier, where the mullet are jumping and the codgers are fishing, you'll have a sense of what this salad tastes like."

Who could resist a dish like that? I knew I couldn't.

My wife and I headed to Cortez on a breezy and warm winter afternoon. We drove over the bridge from Bradenton Beach into Cortez and continued through the fishing village to a poorly marked pizzeria in a shabby little strip mall with an ice cream counter and one of those beach junk shops. Village Idiot Pizzeria ain't much to look at. Behind the small counter where you order there's a wood-burning pizza oven that looks like it was cobbled together from the remains of the Tin Man from *Wizard of Oz*. This is where all of the cooking takes place, from the pizzas to the fish in the tacos (mahi mahi on our visit) to the charred romaine for the Cortez wedge salad.

Edge's description was both spot-on and appropriately florid. There's a lot going on in this salad, from the smoke-infused romaine to the garlicky, peppery dressing with a sweet hint of barbecue sauce to crisp and slender sticks of pizza crust as croutons. But it's the thin slices of smoked mullet roe that take the dish over the top. Village Idiot gets the mullet roe from "a guy down the street" who smokes it for them. The burnt orange-hued slices are tender, dissolving in the mouth into a mix of smoke and salt and sea funk. If there's a better use for mullet in all the universe, I'd be surprised.

After we got our smoked mullet roe fix, we headed back across the bridge and to the Sandbar, a restaurant in nearby Anna Maria for the Cortez bottarga mentioned in Edge's *New York Times* piece. The Anna Maria Fish Company ships the vast majority of its product. I was hoping to meet up with the folks that do the salt curing of the roe. Alas, the holidays got in the way, and I had to settle for buying some packaged bottarga. It comes in vacuum-sealed packs that include whole lobes of the cured roe. Mine was 3.5 ounces for $30. I looked up a few recipes online and settled on a bean and bread salad from the Anna Maria Fish Company website and a few variations on a traditional bottarga pasta recipe I found from Martha Stewart (because when you think mullet, you think Martha, right?).

True to its Italian inspiration, this Cortez bottarga is drier, denser, and saltier than the smoked mullet roe we tried at Village Idiot. Bottarga's texture lends itself to grating. Think crumbly, aged Parmesan and you'll have a good idea of how to put bottarga to work. The aroma before you cut into the lobes of roe is fairly mild, with a fruity, almost pumpkin-y character to match the dark pumpkin color. But once you grate the bottarga and have a taste, you'll get an umami rush of salt and sea. It's not as delicate as caviar, not as creamy as uni, not as assertive as anchovies, but it has elements of each. I think uni is actually its closest cousin, flavor-wise. After I made the bottarga pasta, I scribbled some notes with a terse summary: "insanely good and addictively salty."

Bottarga stays good for quite a while if kept sealed in the fridge, so you won't have to OD on the stuff to use up your purchase. You may not be able to get down to the funky little fishing village of Cortez to experience the magic of mullet roe right by the water, but you can break out some Cortez bottarga whenever you need a quick hit of the Florida coast.

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Quick Bites

Freedom Farmers Market, Arden's Garden to expand, and more

JAMES CAMP/CL FILE

MOVIN' ON UP: Changes in the kitchen at Kevin Gillespie's Gunshow

BY KATE ABNEY

Sweet Auburn Barbecue will open a new location in Poncey-Highland this March **in the space that formerly housed Hector Santiago's Pura Vida**. The brick-and-mortar outpost comes on the heels of Sweet Auburn Barbecue's continued success at the Sweet Auburn Curb Market and its popular food truck.

A new farmers market will launch March 1 at the Carter Center called the **Freedom Farmers Market**. The vendor-managed market will showcase names like Riverview Farms, Woodland Gardens, Star Provisions, 1000 Faces Coffee, and more.

Construction has begun on the new **Inman Park location of Victory Sandwich Bar**, which will take the place of the recently shuttered Park's Edge restaurant at 913 Bernina Ave. Victory Inman Park should open this spring.

Three major restaurants are moving into **Inman Park's swank 280 Elizabeth mixed-use development**, which is slated to open in early 2015. **Ford Fry** is planning a spin-off of the Optimist, featuring an oyster bar and a wood-burning oven for roasted fish. The Kinjo brothers will revive their **MF Sushi** concept, and the owners of **Barcelona Wine Bar & Restaurant** will open one location of its **Bartaco** taco bar here.

Atlanta-based fruit juice, smoothie, and natural snack shop **Arden's Garden has designs to open five new metro Atlanta locations**. The first two, which will be located ITP at 145 Auburn Ave. and Emory Walk, at 1248 Clairmont Road in Decatur, are already in the works. Meanwhile, the juicery is exploring Vinings, Peachtree City, and Alpharetta for its additional outposts.

One Eared Stag has hired a new pastry chef, Kristia Paz, who will begin her new role at the Inman Park restaurant next week. Paz is a native of the Atlanta area who has worked under chefs such as Linton Hopkins and Gary Mennie.

Former "kitchen dude" **Joey Ward** has been promoted to chef de cuisine at Kevin Gillespie's high-concept Glenwood Park restaurant **Gunshow**. After kicking off his career as a sous chef at the St. Regis Atlanta, Ward honed his skills with Gillespie at Woodfire Grill. Most recently, he worked as the executive chef at H. Harper Station.

Bartender **Michael Searles** (formerly of Holeman & Finch, Restaurant Eugene, and the Pinewood) is now full-time at **Seven Lamps** in Buckhead. Searles joins beverage manager **Kevin Bragg** — who began at the restaurant last September — at the Shops Around Lenox restaurant.

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JOEFF DAVIS PHOTOS

STEP INSIDE THE

A final look inside the seedy Ponce hotel before it gets an upscale face-lift

For nearly nine decades, the Clermont Hotel has accommodated everyone from white-collar workers to prostitutes under a single roof at 789 Ponce de Leon Ave. "You can tell that this neighborhood had once been elegant," former hotel resident and exotic dancer Atlanta says. "Over the years, it degenerated into a seediness that was not forgetful of all the old manners and customs."

On the coldest day in Atlanta in nearly two decades, the heat is turned off inside the Clermont Hotel. Frigid gusts sweep through the cracked windowpanes of the seven-story brick building and into dozens of forlorn and abandoned rooms. The iconic structure has been vacant since Fulton County health inspectors shut it down four years ago for unsanitary conditions.

The Clermont Hotel's manager, Stan, who's currently the lone tenant, jimmies a padlock, unravels steel chains, and snips a zip tie to open the plywood-boarded front entrance. Once we're inside, he shuts the iron-barred door and locks back up to keep out unwanted visitors.

Giant strips of paint peel off the crumbling walls. Dusty ceiling fans hang over orange cones surrounding a large ice patch in the wake of an overnight flood. Behind the front desk's glass security window, keys with oversize green tags rest on hooks and within cubbyholes, still waiting to be dropped into guests' hands. Old cigarette butts fill a blue ashtray set atop a pile of Atlanta Police criminal trespassing warning forms. One registration paper includes an important disclaimer: "Guests without baggage please pay in advance."

Last winter, Clermont Hotel Partners LLC purchased the 88,000-square-foot Ponce de Leon Avenue landmark for $2.25 million. New plans for the 89-year-old structure that sits atop the seedy and beloved Clermont Lounge call for a renovation of the building into a four-star boutique hotel.

That the Clermont Hotel's new owners are preserving the landmark building is an unusual approach in a city that has long disregarded its architectural history. The adaptive-reuse renovation represents a rare chance to reclaim a storied, forgotten space.

In June 1924, Atlanta businessman Jesse L. Morrison constructed the 85-unit Bonaventure Arms Apartments for $600,000. The project was one of several concurrent efforts to meet the city's growing housing demand for middle-class professionals. An article from the *Atlanta Constitution* described the structure, due east of the Sears, Roebuck & Co. Southern Regional Catalog Distribution Center and Ford Motor Assembly

CLERMONT HOTEL

By Max Blau and Joeff Davis

Plant, as one of the "handsomest and most modern apartment houses in the south."

The property frequently changed hands over the next 15 years. In 1939, the Briarcliff Investment Company purchased the building and converted it into the Hotel Clermont, an extended-stay lodge with long-term rentals that, at first, only served white guests. To promote the hotel, the owners erected the metal tower, then equipped with beaming neon lights, on the hotel's rooftop.

Prior to the Clermont Lounge's opening in 1965, the basement housed a number of establishments, including ritzy cocktail lounge the Continental Room, and the Anchorage Supper Club, which hosted nightly burlesque shows. The Atlanta Playboy Club and Jungle Club followed in the space, bringing in increasingly exotic entertainment. The lounge's and hotel's notoriety grew alongside Ponce's reputation in the '70s and '80s. Drug addicts and hookers became tenants alongside middle-class renters. The Clermont Hotel's mythology has entwined everyone from Blondie to GG Allin.

"It became universally seen as a seedy hotel where you might get shived," says Scott Henry, *CL*'s former news editor who stayed in rooms 406 and 508 for a 2002 cover story. "It wasn't as cracked out as I expected it to be, but it wasn't a place you'd even go ironically."

Health violations and subsequent foreclosure brought that all to an end in late 2009. The bank-owned property fell into disrepair as multiple developers eyed its potential redevelopment. Real estate developers Ethan Orley and Philip Welker, who specialize in adaptive reuse projects, inked a deal in late 2012 after a contract fell through at the last minute. In recent months, workers have cleaned out asbestos, lead paint, and other hazardous substances from the hotel's bowels in preparation for proper renovations.

Between $10–$30 million in improvements may be required inside the hotel. Guests can expect to pay top dollar for single rooms in the renovated hotel or check into more affordable hostel-style rooms on the two basement floors. Early renderings reveal plans for a proper driveway, streetscaping, and an entrance canopy for the building's front. Around back, a two-story parking deck will be constructed to bring the

See Clermont Hotel p.29

The men and women who checked into the hotel over the years remember their stays differently. Sharry McCormick, a former fourth-floor tenant, cherished her residence. "It was like being in the country at your grandma's house because it was so cozy," she says. "It felt like being home." Atlanta-based writer and Emory University professor Randy Osborne, a former Clermont Hotel guest, has less romantic memories. "Roaches scurried in and out," he says. "There was a smell. Muffled screeches and moans came from the other rooms, people either having orgasms or being murdered."

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Clermont Hotel from p.27

property up to date with current zoning codes and Atlanta Beltline overlay standards. An existing house on Bonaventure Avenue will be turned into additional guest rooms, increasing the hotel's capacity to nearly 100 rooms.

Welker says the Clermont Hotel will no longer have restrictive loitering policies and will open its doors to a "melting pot" of Atlanta residents and travelers. According to G+G Architects Co-Principal Lee Ann Gamble, the project will feature a restaurant with a notable chef to attract a local crowd. Patrons will also have access to a rooftop bar. The rusting tower will be restored and its neon letters will once again light up Ponce. And, yes, the infamous Clermont Lounge should remain largely untouched.

The renovation could pay homage to the Clermont Hotel's past and offer visitors a closer look at life in one of the city's most vibrant neighborhoods. Welker says their preservation efforts could "set a cultural tone for the rest of the neighborhood." At the same time, the project is also a sign of the rapid gentrification already happening as developers erect new residential units and drive up housing prices. With Ponce City Market, the Atlanta Beltline, new bike lanes, and perhaps, someday, an extension of the Atlanta Streetcar, the area is becoming a more attractive place to live to those with deeper pockets. It's unclear whether Ponce's history of sleaziness, endearing to and mourned by some locals, will be entirely whitewashed in the name of progress.

Before builders gut deteriorating rooms, spruce up decrepit halls, and inevitably turn the page on a bygone era, *CL* captured the Clermont Hotel's sordid past one last time. Step inside with us.

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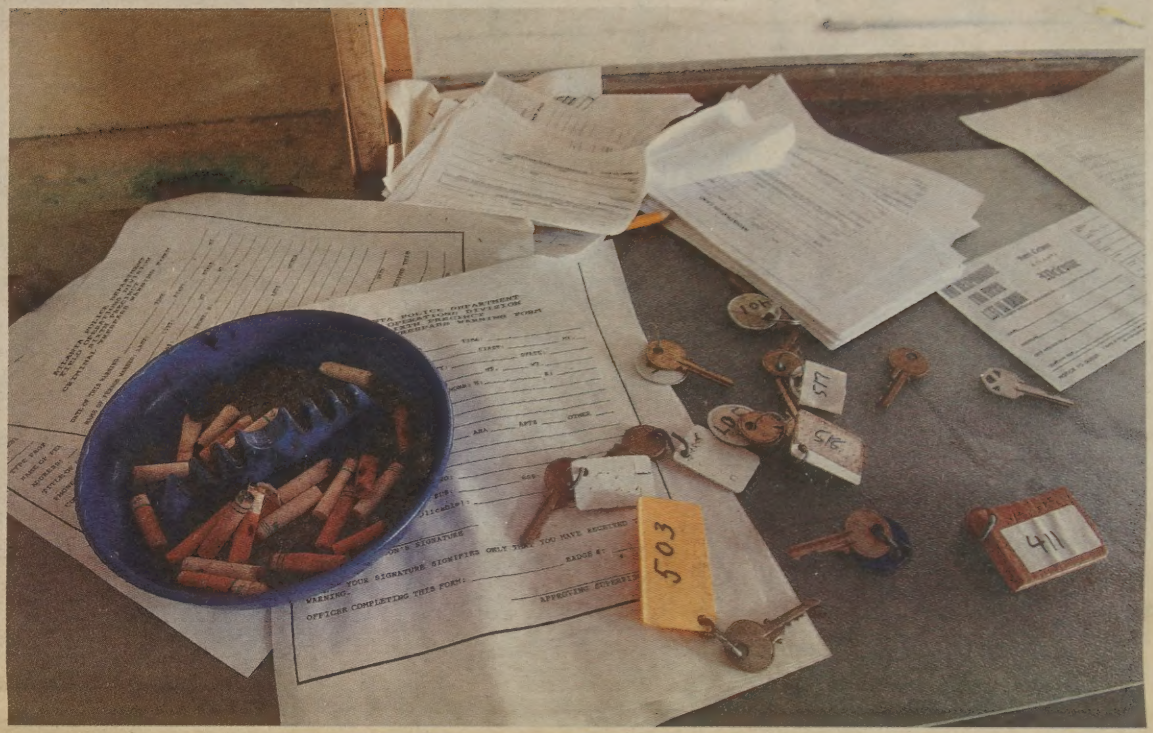
See Clermont Hotel p.31



Each hotel room had a designated box for delivered mail and other notifications. "The front desk was amazing," Henry says. "They had numbered mailboxes, keys in boxes, and kerosene lamps. They had various stuff crammed into cubbyholes. It felt like a funky little time capsule." A handful of keys with hangtags still rest inside the wooden boxes today.

Parts of the building remain largely untouched since Fulton County health inspectors ordered it closed in late 2009. Georgia Department of Revenue documents and employment records still sit inside drawers in the back office. "It looks like someone just one day walked out," G+G Architects co-principal Lee Ann Gamble says. "The desk was there. The things on the desk were there. It's like they were leaving for an hour."

Behind the front desk, hotel clerks registered guests, discouraged loiterers, and doled out room assignments. "The lobby was full of drunks, mumblers, and assorted derelicts," Osborne says. "A sour matron with knotty, arthritic fingers slid my key across the counter without a word. Third floor."

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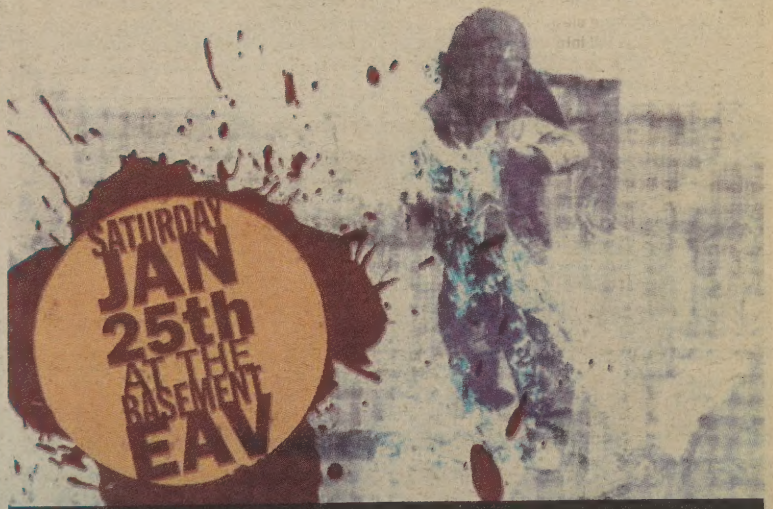

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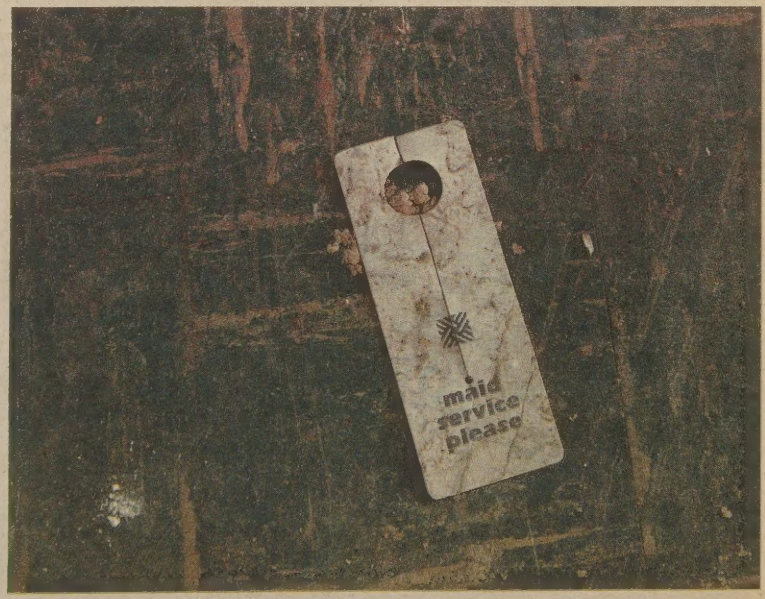
TOP: The Art Deco-style main staircase is expected to remain untouched aside from some new lighting and a fresh paint job. McCormick remembers taking the stairs to her fourth-floor apartment whenever the elevator would malfunction. "It was exactly 82 steps from the lobby to our apartment," she says. **BOTTOM LEFT:** While the building was once one of Atlanta's most revered spaces, it fell into disrepair over the course of its 89-year history. "I used to hook up in that bitch, you know, turn tricks," Clermont Lounge exotic dancer Blondie says. "That was 30 years ago, honey. I charged $20 for a blowjob or a fuck but usually people would give me more money cause I was good. I would sit and talk to them and then they would want to go again." **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Room 21 remains underwater after a pipe burst on the fourth floor, flooding several rooms below. Estimated costs of the Clermont Hotel's repairs range from $10-$30 million.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:
Months before accidentally overdosing in 1993, shit-hurling New York City punk rocker GG Allin rented room 216 for an extended stay. According to Blondie, he was dating one of the Clermont Lounge's workers when he recorded one of his final songs, "Hotel Clermont." "He was a sweetheart," she says. "He stayed in the hotel and used to sleep all day." Years later, his room became worthy of pilgrimage for young hipsters. "Can we stay in the room where GG Allin killed himself?" Atlanta remembers overhearing when she lived at the hotel. "I don't think he died there. But they wanted that room!"

Former hotel guests recall the building's back staircase, which led to the building's rear exit, being particularly noisy. The manually operated elevators occasionally broke down, forcing people to use one of the two staircases. Or visitors turned to the stairs while trying to be discreet with their activities. "I would meet people in the Lounge, hook up with them in the hotel, and then sneak out the side door 'cause you would not want anybody to see you," Blondie says.

The Clermont Hotel's rusting tower will soon be restored and outfitted with neon lights that will beam down upon Ponce de Leon Avenue.

Atlanta entertainer and drag queen Diamond Lil, who stayed at the hotel nearly three decades ago, remembers a "shopworn room" with clean sheets and towels. "[The hotel] was a little bit dreary," she says. "They had pretty nice accommodations, but not first class exactly." On the second floor's hallway, a discarded maid service sign offers a reminder that the hotel was cleaned once in a while.



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Our best bets for the week

Plan

Happenings, p.35
Soundmenu, p.37
Astrology, p.43
Crossword, p.44
This Modern World, p.45

MICHAEL LAVINE

TOP PICK RADFEST 2014

Lee Ranaldo & the Dust headline Radfest 2014, this month's Red Bull Sound Select showcase curated by *CL* Music Editor Chad Radford. Touring in support of last year's mystical and moody LP, *Last Night on Earth* (Matador), the Sonic Youth guitarist and co-founder distinguishes his work from the various other SY offshoots making the rounds by crafting a musical mix of songwriting that's rife with rock sounds and visions that are as classic as they are abstract. Songs such as the seven-minute album opener, "Lecce, Leaving," subtly shift from blues influences to psychedelic tones. Combined with the full-on evolution of the Dust, a band that includes guitarist Alan Licht, former Sonic Youth drummer Steve Shelley, and bassist Tim Lüntzel, it's going to be a killer set. Lyonnais, deadCAT, and Faun and a Pan Flute open. redbullsoundselect.com. — Sonam Vashi

When + Where + $: Sat., Jan. 25, 9 p.m. The Basement. $3-$10.

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Atlanta Civic Center

Atlanta Ballet's *Roméo et Juliette*
Feb. 7-15
Cobb Energy Centre

Atlanta Blues Festival
Feb. 14
Atlanta Civic Center

5 THINGS TO DO

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Saturday
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Radfest 2014 at the Basement

1 a.m.
Rabbit won ton soup at Octopus Bar

Sunday
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— Stephanie Dazey, associate editor/food

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HANDS UP: An image of a crowd surfer during a Spank Rock show at Bodega, Bushwick, Brooklyn, in 2009, from *Bright Nights: Photographs of Another New York.*

© TOD SEELIE

FLASH BANG

Photographer **Tod Seelie** drops in at Poem 88 on Tues., **Jan. 28**, at 6 p.m. to discuss and sign copies of his first book, *Bright Nights: Photographs of Another New York.* For about 15 years, Seelie's photographs of warehouse parties, punk bands, vibrant squats, and street scenes have become a chaotic chronicle of life on the edges of New York. Like Nan Goldin or Lucian Perkins before him, Seelie is a photographer of his own subculture. The intimacy of his lens can be felt in every frame. poem88.net.
— Wyatt Williams

Festivals/Events

BRIDAL EXTRAVAGANZA OF ATLANTA Meet Atlanta's best wedding professionals see the latest trends, designs, and ideas, as well as a couture fashion show. $15-$20. Sun., Jan. 26, 1 p.m. The Atlanta Convention Center at Americas-Mart, 230 Spring St. 678-439-9334. www.beabride.net.

CALLANWOLDE ARTS FESTIVAL The first annual Callanwolde Arts Festival is a two-day indoor arts festival featuring approximately 86 painters, photographers, sculptors, metalwork, glass artists, jewelers and more. The festival will also offer artist demonstrations, live acoustic music, plus gourmet food trucks with healthy alternatives and music and dance performances. Sat., Jan. 25, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sun., Jan. 26, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. $5. Callanwolde Fine Arts Center, 980 Briarcliff Road. 404-872-5338. www.callanwoldeartsfestival.com.

THE GREAT AMERICAN MOTORCYCLE SHOW Featuring new foreign and domestic motorcycles, one-of-a-kind customs, sport bikes, touring, choppers, trailers, parts, apparel and anything you need to ride. Paul Sr. of Orange County Choppers will be signing autographs and taking photos on Saturday and Sunday. Fri., Jan. 24, 3-8 p.m.; Sat., Jan. 25, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sun., Jan. 26, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free-$12. North Atlanta Trade Center, 1700 Jeurgens Court, Norcross. 770-279-9899. www.northatlantatradecenter.com.

Comedy

CAPTAIN'S LOG Join the crew of Captain's Log as they take you on a completely improvised trek through our universe, inspired by your suggestions. Most of the crew are big fans of sci-fi, but some have never seen an episode of "Star Trek." It's a sci-fi mishmash hodgepodge of galactic proportions. Fri., Jan. 24, 10:30 p.m. $7. The Village Theatre, 349 Decatur St., Suite L. 404-688-8858. www.villagecomedy.com.

COMEDY IMPROV Improvisors Brian Philips, Paige Steadman, and Robert Drake take your tasteful suggestions and turn them into funny scenes and songs. This fun-filled evening is appropriate for all ages. Sat., Jan. 25, 7:30 p.m. $6-$10. Academy Theatre, 146 Burke St., Stockbridge. 404-474-8332.

HARLAND WILLIAMS Harland has appeared on every other late-night talk show performing stand-up and in multiple crowd-pleasing movies such as *Dumb and Dumber*, *There's Something About Mary*, and *Half-Baked*. Thurs., Jan. 23, 8 p.m.; Fri., Jan. 24, 8 and 10 p.m.; Sat., Jan. 25, 8 and 10 p.m. $25. Atlanta Improv Comedy Club & Dinner Theater, 56 East Andrews Drive. 678-244-3612. www.theimprovatlanta.com.

JIM NORTON Comedian, radio personality and *New York Times* best-selling author Jim Norton bring his tour to Atlanta. For show times and ticket prices, call Punchline. Thurs., Jan. 23, 8 p.m.; Fri., Jan. 24, 8 and 10 p.m.; Sat., Jan. 25, 6, 8 and 10 p.m. $25. The Punchline, 280 Hilderbrand Drive. 404-252-5233. www.punchline.com.

KYLE KINANE Kyle serves as the voice of Comedy Central's promos since 2011, told the Haymarket Affair's story on "Drunk History" before puking his guts out on television, and recently appeared alongside Zach Galifianakis, Larry David, Bob Odenkirk, and others in the animated series "TripTank.". Thurs., Jan. 23, 8 p.m.; Fri., Jan. 24, 8 and 10:30 p.m.; Sat., Jan. 25, 8 and 10:30 p.m.; Sun., Jan. 26, 7 p.m. $18-$28. Laughing Skull Lounge, 878 Peachtree St. 877-523-3288. www.laughingskulllounge.com.

MIKE SPEENBERG Speenberg has been called "The Inner Voice of His Generation" and has been featured on everything from Paul Harvey Radio Show to The Weather Channel. You can hear him every week on his popular internet podcast www.SpeenbergRadio.com. Sun., Jan. 26, 7 p.m. $15. The Punchline, 280 Hilderbrand Drive. 404-252-5233. www.punchline.com.

Books

MALCOLM GLADWELL Malcolm Gladwell, the No. 1 bestselling author of *The Tipping Point*, *Blink*, *Outliers*, and *What the Dog Saw*, will discuss his latest novel, *David and Goliath*, and answer questions from the Symphony Hall audience. Each ticket is good for a signed hardcover copy of *David and Goliath*, available the night of the event. Wed., Jan. 29, 8 p.m. $45-$100. Atlanta Symphony Hall, 1280 Peachtree St. 404-733-4900. www.atlantasymphony.org.

Dance

14TH STREET PLAYHOUSE *Circa 50. Circa 50* is a visceral multimedia dance event with original live music, projected images, and dynamic physical theatre that breaks into and redefines, with grace and humor, the engineered world of the 1950s, challenging the root of a culture bound by McCarthyism, segregation, the Cold War and essentially, the American dream. Fri., Jan. 24, 8 p.m.; Sat., Jan. 25, 2 and 8 p.m. $10-$18. www.gatheringwild.org. 173 14th St. 404-733-5000.

7 STAGES THEATRE *New/Favorites: Full Radius Dance in Concert*. Full Radius Dance presents *New/Favorites* with themes of memory, energy and instinct explored through physically integrated (dancers with and without disabilities) dance. Featuring *It is Four Years Ago and It is Yesterday* by Artistic Director Douglas Scott and *Perpetual Motion* by guest choreographer Lisa K. Lock. Fri., Jan. 24, 8 p.m.; Sat., Jan. 25, 2 and 8 p.m. $12-$20. 404-724-9663. www.fullradiusdance.org. 1105 Euclid Ave.

HEALEY BUILDING *EDGE in Unexpected Spaces*. Three original site-specific works with the common curatorial thread "turning everyday spaces into works of art." Tues., Jan. 28, 11:30 a.m.: "Brought to you by...." by D. Patton White Wednesday; Wed., Jan. 29, 11:30 a.m.: "Disrupt" by Lori Teague; Thurs., Jan. 30, 11:30 a.m.: "Doubt" by Nicole Livieratos/CORE Performance Company. Fri.-Sat., Jan. 30-Feb. 1, 6-7 p.m.: Combined performance of all three new works *EDGE in Unexpected Spaces/2014*, curated by CORE's Artistic Director Sue Schroeder. SJan. 28-30, 11:30 a.m.; Jan. 31-Feb. 1, 6 p.m. Free. 404-373-4154. 57 Forsyth St. www.healeycondos.org.

Theater

OPENINGS & RECEPTIONS

THE BOOK OF MORMON From "South Park" creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone, it's *The Book of Mormon*, winner of nine Tony Awards including Best Musical. Jan. 28-Feb. 9. Fox Theatre, 660 Peachtree St. 855285-8499. www.foxtheatre.org.

SHAKESPEARE'S *TWELFTH NIGHT* Drawing upon the carnival-esque spirit associated with *Twelfth Night* (the Feast of the Epiphany in the Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox Churches), the play presents a world where social norms are disregarded and desire seems to gain free reign. Fridays-Sundays, 7 p.m. Through Feb. 1. $15. *The Dancing Goat Theatre, 10700 State Bridge Road, Johns* Creek. 770-772-0762. www.performingartsnorth.org.

ONGOING THEATER

THE BOOK CLUB PLAY Ana lives in a letter-perfect world with an adoring husband, the perfect job, and her greatest passion: Book Club. But when her cherished group becomes the focus of a documentary film, their intimate discussions about life and literature take a turn for the hilarious in front of the inescapable camera lens. Add a provocative new member and these six friends are bound for pandemonium. Wednesdays-Fridays, 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 3 and 8:30 p.m.; Sundays, 5 p.m. Through Feb. 23. $25-$45. Horizon Theatre, 1083 Austin Ave. 404-584-7450. www.horizontheatre.com.

DRIVING MISS DAISY OnStage Atlanta's limited engagement production of the classic, *Driving Miss Daisy*. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m. Through Jan. 25. $12-$20. OnStage Atlanta, 2969 E. Ponce De Leon Ave, Decatur. 404-245-4205. www.onstageatlanta.com.

LOMBARDI As part of the Brand Signature Series at Aurora Theatre, Eric Simonson's production is based on the book, *When Pride Still Mattered — A Life of Vince Lombardi*. Saturdays, Sundays, 2:30 p.m.; Wednesdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Through Feb. 9. $16-30. Aurora Theatre, 128 Pike St., Lawrenceville. 678-226-6222. www.auroratheatre.com.

Visual Arts

OPENINGS & RECEPTIONS

CENTRAL LIBRARY - ATLANTA FULTON LIBRARY *African-Americans for the Arts Exhibition*. A multimedia group art exhibition presented by members of the African-Americans for the Arts in celebration of Black History Month. The First Thursday Art Walk opening reception will Feb. 6, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Sundays, 2-6 p.m.; Fridays, Saturdays, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Mondays-Thursdays, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Through Feb. 28. Free. One Margaret Mitchell Square. 404-730-1700.

See Happenings p.36

TABERNACLE

THIS SAT JAN 25 — YONDER MOUNTAIN STRING BAND WITH SPECIAL GUEST THE TRAVELIN' MCCOURYS

NEXT SAT FEB 1 — LIVE NATION AND WINDSTORM PRESENT MOE.

SAT FEB 8 — TEXAS PETE PRESENTS COREY SMITH

THUR FEB 13 — MS. LAURYN HILL

FRI FEB 14 — LIVE NATION AND WINDSTORM PRESENT TREY ANASTASIO BAND

SAT FEB 15 — 10TH ANNUAL GREEN 17 TOUR FLOGGING MOLLY

SAT MAR 1 — #BANDLIFE TOUR 2014 EMBLEM3 WITH SPECIAL GUEST MKTO

THUR MAR 6 — BRING ME THE HORIZON WITH SPECIAL GUESTS OF MICE & MEN, ISSUES AND LETLIVE

FRI MAR 7 — EXCISION WITH SPECIAL GUESTS ILL.GATES AND DIRTYPHONICS

SAT MAR 8 — DK AND WINDSTORM PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS ST. VINCENT

TUES MAR 11 — BROKEN BELLS WITH SPECIAL GUEST AU REVOIR SIMONE

SUN MAR 16 — BOB WEIR & RATDOG

THUR MAR 20 — THE GLITCH MOB WITH SPECIAL GUESTS ANA SIA & PENTHOUSE PENTHOUSE

WED APR 23 — AN INTIMATE EVENING WITH ROB THOMAS

FRI MAY 2 — HAIM

FRI MAY 30 — BLU ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES PRESENTS FREEDOM PROJECTS FEATURING MANCHESTER ORCHESTRA WITH SPECIAL GUESTS BALANCE AND COMPOSURE; KEVIN DEVINE AND THE GODDAMN BAND

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Advance tickets for all shows available at the Tabernacle Box Office on show nights. CHARGE-BY-PHONE: 800-745-3000 All acts, dates and times subject to change without notice. Tickets subject to applicable fees.

Happenings from p.35

MARCIA WOOD GALLERY *Joe Walters: Ascension.* For his first exhibition at Marcia Wood Gallery, Walter's will present exciting new developments in his trademark sculptures and works on paper. Opening reception: Thurs., Jan. 23, 7-9p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Through Feb. 22. Free. 263 Walker St. 404-827-0030. www.marciawoodgallery.com.

MUSEUM OF DESIGN ATLANTA *Closing Party for Paul Rand: Defining Design.* Enjoy music, signature cocktails courtesy of Georgia Crown, and delicious snacks as the museum says goodbye to *Paul Rand: Defining Design*. Show your creative side and come dressed and your favorite font. Sat., Jan. 25, 7-10 p.m. $15-$20. 1315 Peachtree St. 404-979-6455. www.museumofdesign.org.

OGLETHORPE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM OF ART *SKY LIGHT: Landscapes, Traditional & Contemporary.* Featuring 19th and 20th century paintings, drawings, and prints from OUMA's permanent collection, plus late 20th and early 21st century paintings by emerging artists. View landscapes by Cavaillès, Corot, Maufra, Pissarro, and others; large scale oils by Courtney J. Garrett, Larry Gray, and Charlotte Terrell, from Georgia, North Carolina, and Mississippi, respectively; works by Daniell and Havell; and works from several private Atlanta collections, including that of Dr. and Mrs. Michael Schlossberg. Tuesdays-Sundays, noon. Through March 9. $5. 404-364-8868. 4484 Peachtree Road. museum.oglethorpe.edu.

THOMAS DEANS FINE ART GALLERY *Paul Tamanian: Revelations.* No artist has exploited the versatility of aluminum as an artistic medium like Paul Tamanian. From elegant and sleek to elemental and rough, aluminum can take many guises, all of which Tamanian reveals in his dynamic paintings and sculptures. In his latest works, Tamanian has created a process that seamlessly incorporates photography in a way not seen before. Opening reception, Friday, January 24, 6-8 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays, 11 a.m. Through March 8. Free. 690 Miami Circle. 404-814-1811. www.thomasdeansfineart.com.

ONGOING VISUAL ARTS

ATLANTA CONTEMPORARY ART CENTER *Coloring.* Showcasing the works of Bill Adams, Paul Stephen Benjamin, Rutherford Chang, Anne Lindberg, and Kate Sheperd, who engage the physical and conceptual suggestions of color. Curated by Stuart Horodner. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Through March 9. Free. *In Translation.* Exhibition showing the works of Jonathan Bounknight, Ben Schonberger, and Nathan Sharratt. Curated by Stuart Horodner. Opening reception Fri., Jan. 10, from 7-10 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Through March 9. Free. 535 Means St. 404-688-1970. www.thecontemporary.org.

ATLANTA HISTORY CENTER *Rendering Atlanta.* In this reflection on a century's worth of architectural design, guests will see the renderings of more than 30 buildings as well as the tools used to create these illustrations of Atlanta's homes, schools, churches, and other notable buildings. Through Feb. 28. Mondays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Sundays, 12-5:30 p.m. Free-$15. 130 W. Paces Ferry Road. 404-814-4000. www.atlantahistorycenter.org.

AUBURN AVENUE RESEARCH LIBRARY ON AFRICAN-AMERICAN CULTURE AND HISTORY *One Day in January. One Day in January* features photographs from the very first memorial services for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by renowned photographer Horace Henry. Sundays, 2-6 p.m.; Mondays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Tuesdays-Thursdays, noon-8 p.m.; Fridays, Saturdays, noon-6 p.m. Through Jan. 31. Free. 101 Auburn Ave. 404-730-4001. afpls.org/aarl.

BEEP BEEP GALLERY *Gold Party.* A group exhibition featuring new work by seven artists, including Paige Adair, Olive Lynch, Nick Madden, Michael Polomik, Steve Pomberg, Johnathan Welsh, and Ally White Wednesdays-Saturdays, noon-6 p.m. Through Feb. 8. Free. 696 Charles Allen Drive. 404-429-3320. www.beepbeepgallery.com.

BLUE MARK STUDIOS *Twenty Thirteen.* Blue Mark Gallery's annual group exhibition, featuring the artwork of Alvaro Alvillar, Scott Dupree, David Gaither, Kwanyoung Lee, Andrew Munoz, Tabor Shiles, Casey Sloate and Mac Stewart. Tuesdays, Thursdays, 4-7 p.m. Through Feb. 3. Free. 892 Jefferson St. 678-786- 9490. www.bluemarkstudios.com.

DEFOOR CENTER *Eclectic Art Exhibit.* The show will feature artists Rachael Howard, Jane Biven, Tim Haugh, Barbara Rush and Linda Wimberly. The art consists of an array of various styles. Some will be obvious and whimsical; the others abstract and subliminal. Mondays-Fridays, 10 a.m. Through March 7. Free. 1710 DeFoor Ave. 404-591-3900. www.defoorcentre.com.

GET THIS! GALLERY *A System of Interiority.* Gyun Hur's *A System of Interiority* is a collaborative installation with lighting designer Rebecca Makus and writers Kristin Juarez, Lilly Lampe, and Ruiyan Xu. Guests are encouraged to experience the installation over time as the light changes, which is an "essential part of perception and understanding of surroundings." Wednesdays-Saturdays, noon-5 p.m. Through Feb. 15. Free. 1037 Monroe Drive. 678-596-4451. www.getthisgallery.com.

HAGEDORN FOUNDATION GALLERY *Liz Linden: I wasn't lying.* Liz Linden presents viewers with simple, straightforward imagery that unfolds into multiple, often contradictory readings of everyday objects. Through March 12. *THREE.* A group exhibition including photographs by F.C. Gundlach, Ethan Levitas, and Yijun Liao, curated by Elisabeth Biondi. Saturdays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Tuesdays-Fridays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Through March 12. Free. 425 Peachtree Hills Ave. 404-492-7718. www.hagedornfoundationgallery.org.

MASON MURER FINE ART *Botanicals.* In an intimate body of new work, artist Molly Sawyer creates a delicate interplay of elements by combining steel forms with organic materials such as sheep's wool and Spanish moss. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. 199 Armour Drive. 404-879-1500. www.masonmurer.com.

MINT GALLERY *Live Amateurs.* The work of 55 of the most exciting emerging artists currently living and working in the Southeast. A closing reception takes place Feb. 7 from 7-11 p.m. Wednesdays-Sundays, noon-6 p.m. Through Feb. 7. Free. 636 N. Highland Ave. 404-946-8982. www.mintatl.org.

MUSEUM OF DESIGN ATLANTA *Design Workshop: Mid-Century Modern Architecture and Design.* This workshop is a three-part series exploring arts, design, and architecture from 1930-1965. Thursdays, 6-8 p.m. Through Jan. 23. $30-$45. *Paul Rand: Defining Design.* Highly regarded as the "godfather of American Modernism," Rand set the standard for 20th century advertising and graphic design. Through Jan. 26. Mondays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free-$10. 1315 Peachtree St. 404-979-6455. www.museumofdesign.org.

SANDLER HUDSON GALLERY *Sketchwork.* Artist talk with Susan Robert on Sat., Feb. 8 at 2 p.m. Tuesdays-Fridays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturdays, noon-5 p.m. Through Feb. 8. Free. 1000 Marietta St., Suite 116. 404-817-3300. www.sandlerhudson.com.

TWIN KITTENS *Always Wherever.* Solo exhibition by Chicago-based artist Aimée Beaubien. Responding to the complexities of perception, Beaubien uses the camera as a starting point to playfully reconfigure object, subject and motion. By appointment only. Free. 75 Bennett Street, Suite K1. 404-803-4316. twinkittens.com.

WESTSIDE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER *Marko Brandon: Photograms.* The Fay Gold Gallery showcases the works of Marko Brandon, who spent the last decade experimenting with photogram/x-ray, and developed his own contemporary style of art combining history with modern techniques. Wednesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Through March 22. Free. 760 10th St. 770-364-5432.

WHITESPACE *re/form.* Amy Pleasant, featuring new works in a variety of media, including paintings, drawings, and objects. Wednesdays-Saturdays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Through Feb. 15. Free. 814 Edgewood Ave. 404-688-1892. www.whitespace814.com.

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• Sun: TOURS (from 1-4pm)
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LOAF DEALS

IN TUNE

Indigo Girl **Amy Ray**'s latest country album, *Goodnight Tender*, is a logical extension of her quarter-century career in folk, singer/songwriter, and harder-edged rock, and she never does anything halfway. These original bluegrass and down-home tunes are as authentic as the dobro, mandolin, fiddle, banjo, pedal steel, and stand-up bass that accompany each one, and Ray's dusky voice and tough energy give the album plenty of teeth. Catch her at Variety Playhouse on Sun., **Jan. 26**. variety-playhouse.com.
— Hal Horowitz

BEER FEST

Featuring more than 300 beers, the **Atlanta Winter Beer Fest** sets up shop at the Masquerade Music Park for a two-day event this Sat.-Sun., Jan. **25-26**. Enjoy samples from breweries east of the Mississippi River on Saturday, while Sunday features brews from the West. Also on deck: live music, a DJ, food options, and fun and games. $30-$70. atlantawinterbeerfest.com.
— Alicia Carter

HOW TO SUBMIT A LISTING

Happenings is our best bets section of the week's events. Timely events take precedence over other listings if we have to cut for space. Ongoing events may be listed for the run of the show or event and need not be submitted weekly. Include date, times, prices, location, and contact info. Listings must be fewer than 45 words. Deadline is noon Wednesday for the following week's paper. We've got tons of information on benefits, clubs, family, volunteers, organizations, and support groups at **clatl.com/events**.

E-mail: happenings@creativeloafing.com FAX: 404-420-1402

Mail: Creative Loafing, HAPPENINGS, 115 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Suite 301, Atlanta, GA 30303.

More on the Web: 1,600 events at clatl.com/events

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THURS., JANUARY 23

Rock/Pop

THE EARL 488 Flat Shoals Ave. 404-522-3950
Filmage: The Story of Descendents 9 p.m. $8-$10
SMITH'S OLDE BAR 1578 Piedmont Ave. 404-875-1522
7ven, Skybison, Darkroom, Marshall Seese 8 p.m. $7
TERMINAL WEST 887 W. Marietta St., C 404-876-5566
The Ringers 8:30 p.m. $22.50-$25.00
THE STAR COMMUNITY BAR 437 Moreland Ave.
TV Dinner, Dip, Fit of Body, and more 9 p.m. Free
WONDERROOT 982 Memorial Drive 404-254-5955
Matthew Thomas & Ben Cosgrove, N n' N 9 p.m. $5

Hip-hop/Soul

529 529 Flat Shoals Ave. 404-228-6769
Left Field Experiment: Ras G, Holoking, Difference Machine, Heavy Color 9 p.m. $8-$10

Blues/Jazz

BLIND WILLIE'S 828 N. Highland Ave. 404-873-2583
Sue Foley & Peter Karp 9:30 p.m. $10
NORTHSIDE TAVERN 1058 Howell Mill Rd 404-874-8745
The Breeze Kings 10 p.m. Free
STEVE'S LIVE MUSIC 234 Hilderbrand Dr 404-441-9475
Randy Chapman Trio 8:15 p.m. $5

Folk/Country

DIXIE TAVERN 2319 Windy Hill Rd SE
KontraBand 9 p.m.
EDDIE'S ATTIC 515-B N. McDonough St. 404-377-4976
Jackson County Line, Julie Gribble 8 p.m. $10-$14
RED LIGHT CAFÉ 553 Amsterdam Ave. 404-874-7828
Little Country Giants, City Mouse 8 p.m. $6-$8
SMITH'S OLDE BAR 1578 Piedmont Ave. 404-875-1522
Natalie Stovall & The Drive 8 p.m. $10-$12

Electronic/DJ

DANIA'S CAFE 1 Marietta St.
Trap w/ DJ Serenity (Happy Hour edition) 5 p.m. Free
EDGEWOOD SPEAKEASY AT PIZZERIA VESUVIUS 327 Edgewood Ave. 404-343-4404
Cordoba: DJs Enoch's Light, Mayor Carcetti 9 p.m. Free
THE SOUNDTABLE 483 Edgewood Ave. 404-835-2534
NEW LOW ft. DJ Chris Devoe, Divine Interface, Cristo Disco 10 p.m. Free

FRI., JANUARY 24

Rock/Pop

529 529 Flat Shoals Ave. 404-228-6769
Clashinista: Zen Arcade 9 p.m. $8
CENTER STAGE 1374 W. Peachtree St. 404-885-1365
Amon Amarth, Enslaved, Skeletonwitch 8 p.m. $25-$30
THE EARL 488 Flat Shoals Ave. 404-522-3950
Blair Crimmins & the Hookers 9 p.m. $10-$12
ELLIOT STREET DELI & PUB 51 Elliott St. 404-523-2174
ATL Collective: Paul McCartney's "RAM" 9 p.m. $10
THE MAMMAL GALLERY 91 Broad St. 404-771-6912
Hello Ocho, Whitegold, Linear Downfall 9 p.m.
MASQUERADE 695 North Ave. 404-577-8178
Outline in Color, Neurotic November, Omissions, and more 6 p.m. $7

THEO JENSON

RAS G

Los Angeles-based instrumental hip-hop guru and Poo-Bah Records co-founder Ras G (born Gregory Shorter Jr.) brings the psychedelic beat party to the EAV on Thurs., **Jan. 23**, playing cuts from his latest, *Back on the Planet*, and more. With a catalog filled with titles such as *Views of Saturn #1* and *Space Base is the Place*, Ras G is a living embodiment of the cosmically musical, spiritual, and artistic mythos of Sun Ra, pushed to the outer limits of hip-hop. *The Left Field Experiment ft. Ras G, Holoking, the Difference Machine, and Heavy Color. $8-$10. 9 p.m. 529, 529 Flat Shoals Ave. 404-228-6769. www.529atl.com.*
— CHAD RADFORD

SMITH'S OLDE BAR 1578 Piedmont Ave. 404-875-1522
Boss the Tweed, Zack Leffew 8 p.m. $12-$15
THE STAR COMMUNITY BAR 437 Moreland Ave.
Degradations, Demonaut, Palaces, Halmos 9 p.m. $7
VARIETY PLAYHOUSE 1099 Euclid Ave. 404-524-7354
Yacht Rock performs "Dark Side Of The Moon" and "Anchorman" 1 & 2 Soundtracks 8:30 p.m. $15-$20
VINYL 1374 W. Peachtree St. 404-885-1365
Empire Theory, Palace Wolves, Romenz 9 p.m. $6-$10

Hip-hop/Soul

APACHE CAFE 64 3rd St. NW 404-876-5436
Fayth Hope, Cleveland P. Jones 8 p.m. $12-$25
THE BASEMENT 1245 Glenwood Ave. 404-662-8686
Boom Bap ft. Rate, Applejac, Fort Knox 9 p.m. $7

Blues/Jazz

NORTHSIDE TAVERN 1058 Howell Mill Rd 404-874-8745
Mudcat 10 p.m. $10
STEVE'S LIVE MUSIC 234 Hilderbrand Dr. 404-441-9475
Tom Lennon 8 p.m. $10-$12

Folk/Country

EDDIE'S ATTIC 515-B N. McDonough St. 404-377-4976
Matthew Mayfield 7:30 p.m. $10-$15
RED CLAY THEATRE 3116 Main St. 404-478-2749
Terry Edwards & Sandy Flynn, Brad Edwards, Thom Jenkins 8 p.m. $18-$22
RED LIGHT CAFÉ 553 Amsterdam Ave. 404-874-7828
Daniel Bachman, Trey Wright 8 p.m. $8-$10
SMITH'S OLDE BAR 1578 Piedmont Ave. 404-875-1522
Rolling Nowhere 7 p.m. $8

World/Classical

WOODRUFF ARTS CENTER 1280 Peachtree St. 404-733-4200
Building Bridges Through Music: An Evening with the National Arab Orchestra 7:30 p.m. Free

SAT., JANUARY 25

Rock/Pop

THE BASEMENT 1245 Glenwood Ave. 404-662-8686
Lee Ranaldo and the Dust, Lyonnais, deadCAT, Faun and a Pan Flute 8 p.m. $3-$10
CENTER STAGE 1374 W. Peachtree St. 404-885-1365
Phosphorescent, Caveman 9 p.m. $25
THE EARL 488 Flat Shoals Ave. 404-522-3950
I Want Whisky, The Villain Family, City Hotel 9 p.m. $10
EDDIE'S ATTIC 515-B N. McDonough St. 404-377-4976
School of Rock Atlanta 11 a.m. Free
Susi French Connection 7 p.m. $15-$20
Caroline Smith, Dylan LeBlanc 8 p.m. $8-$12
SMITH'S OLDE BAR 1578 Piedmont Ave. 404-875-1522
Moontower, Deadfields, Daniels Bros Band 7 p.m. $10
TERMINAL WEST 887 W. Marietta St., C 404-876-5566
Connor Christian & Southern Gothic Sonia Leigh, The Best Brothers Band 8 p.m. $12
BUCKHEAD THEATRE 3110 Roswell Rd 404-843-2825
Big Head Todd & the Monsters 8 p.m. $26-$34

See Soundmenu p.38

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SATURDAY, FEB 8TH | 8PM | $20 ADV

FEATURED SHOWS

Fri, Jan 24 | 7:00 PM | $25.00 ADV — AMON AMARTH — Enslaved, Skeletonwitch @Center Stage Theater
Sat, Jan 25 / Sun, Jan 26 | 1:00 PM | $35.00 ADV / $60 2 Day — ATLANTA WINTER BEER FEST — Saturday, January 25 1-6pm Breweries East of the Mississippi River; Sunday, January 26 1-6pm Breweries West of the Mississippi River
Mon, Jan 27 | 6:00 PM | $20.00 ADV — FALLING IN REVERSE — Escape The Fate, Chelsea Grin
Tue, Jan 28 | 7:00 PM | $14.00 ADV — DELOREAN — Until The Ribbon Breaks
Wed, Jan 29 | 7:00 PM | $13.00 ADV — NEKROMANTIX — The Creepshow, Ganges Phalanges
Fri, Jan 31 | 6:00 PM | $10.00 ADV — THE NEW YEAR REVOLUTION — Sickness in the System, Bad Vibe
Fri, Jan 31 | 7:00 PM | $10.00 ADV — ANOTHER LOST YEAR — Elisium, Age of Consent
Sat, Feb 1 | 7:00 PM | $17.00 ADV — DARK TRANQUILITY — Omnium Gatherum, Exmortus
Sun, Feb 2 | 6:00 PM | $10.00 ADV — HEADBAND FOR THE HIGHWAY — Adharma, Tetratch, Ophion
Sun, Feb 2 | 7:00 PM | $14.00 ADV — NONPOINT — Scorpion Child, Poynte

UPCOMING SHOWS

Feb 07 Yellowcard
Feb 07 10 Years
Feb 08 The Slackers
Feb 12 Chimaira
Feb 12 Hollywood Ending
Feb 13 MANOWAR
Feb 14 Transit
Feb 14 Abandon All Ships
Feb 16 Mobile Deathcamp
Feb 17 Paradise Fears
Feb 18 La Fin Absolute du Monde
Feb 20 For Today
Feb 21 Sick Puppies
Feb 21 Fratellis

THE EARL
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Thu. Jan 23 | 9:00PM | TRIPLE Ds presents:
"FILMAGE:"
THE STORY OF DESCENDENTS & ALL
Rafay Goes to College

Fri. Jan 24 | 9:00PM
BLAIR CRIMMINS & THE HOOKERS
The Darnell Boys

Tue. Jan 25 | 9:00PM | BANG ARTS presents:
I WANT WHISKY
Villain Family | City Hotel

Wed. Jan 29 | 8:30PM
BEN TRICKEY
Madeline | Montanus

1.30 CUSSES | LAZER / WULF
1.31 MARIA TAYLOR / P.J. BOND
2.1 RADIO BIRDS/ BESIDES DANIEL
2.3 MUTUAL BENEFIT / SUNO DEKO
2.6 Big Sandy & his Fly-Rite Boys/ Eleni Mandell
2.7 Sebadoh | 2.8 Tedo Stone/ Great Peackock
2.9 Bombadil | 2.10 Yuck | 2.14 Hello Ocho
2.15 Russian Circles 2.17 Cibo Matto
2.18 Gardens & Villa | 2.19 Red Wanting Blue/ Bronze Radio Return | 2.20 Drag the River
2.21 Leslie & the Lys
2.22 St. Paul & the Broken Bones

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Thu. Jan 23| PSCYH ARMY & SPEAKEASY present: THE LEFT FIELD EXPERIMENT:
RAS G. | HOLOKING
The Difference Machine | Heavy Color

Fri. Jan 24
CLASHINISTA (Clash tribute)
Zen Arcade (Husker Du)

Sat. Jan 25 | THE GET BACK #3
SUPASTITION | METHUZULAH
4-ize | Rasheeda Ali
DJ Sammy B | DJ Apple Jac | DJ Nervex

Mon. Jan 27 | FREE
LOWBANKS
Gunther Doug | Freezerburn

Tue. Jan 28 | TRIPLE Ds presents:
TURBO FRUITS
Concord America | The Marrows

Wed. Jan 29 | SPEAKEASY PROMO presents:
A-PLUS(Souls of Mischief)
DT | Knife | Quanstar & Evaready RAW

1.30 RBTS Win | 1.31 Places to Hide
2.1 Heavy Chevy | 2.6 Dead Meadow
2.7 Jucifer | 2.8 together PANGEA

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— HAL HOROWITZ

Soundmenu from p.37

THE DRUNKEN UNICORN 736 Ponce de Leon Ave.
Glen Iris, Monsoon, Sex BBQ 9 p.m. $5

THE STAR COMMUNITY BAR 437 Moreland Ave.
The Block People 4 p.m. Free
Boobiepalooza ft. the Coathangers, Tikka, Shantih Shantih 9 p.m. $8-$10

VARIETY PLAYHOUSE 1099 Euclid Ave. 404-524-7354
Elvis Royale ft. Kingsized & Dames Aflame 8:30 p.m. $26-$28

VINYL 1374 W. Peachtree St. 404-885-1365
Voodoo Visionary, The Orange Constant 9 p.m. $7-$10

Hip-hop/Soul

529 529 Flat Shoals Ave. 404-228-6769
The Get Back #3: Supastition, Methuzulah, 4-ize, Rasheeda Ali, DJ Sammy B (Jungle Brothers), DJ Apple Jac, DJ Nervex, and more 9 p.m. Donations

Blues/Jazz

BLIND WILLIE'S 828 N. Highland Ave. 404-873-2583
Sandra Hall & The Shadows 9:30 p.m. $12

NORTHSIDE TAVERN 1058 Howell Mill Rd 404-874-8745
Mudcat 10 p.m. $10

Folk/Country

RED LIGHT CAFÉ 553 Amsterdam Ave. 404-874-7828
Col. Bruce Hampton and the Madrid Express 8 p.m. $10

SMITH'S OLDE BAR 1578 Piedmont Ave. 404-875-1522
Whiskey of the Damned 6:30 p.m. $8
Ben Grant, David Lareau, The Copper Pots, Alchemy 8:30 p.m. $8

STEVE'S LIVE MUSIC 234 Hilderbrand Dr. 404-441-9475
Sonia Tetlow Bottom Line Band 9 p.m. $10-$12

TABERNACLE 152 Luckie St. 404-659-9022
Yonder Mountain String Band, the Travelin' McCourys. 8 p.m. $25-$28

Electronic/DJ

THE IRIS AKA RUSH LOUNGE 2715 Buford Highway 770-240-0ESP
ESP 101 [Learn To Believe] W/ Helicopter Showdown 10 p.m. $10

KINGDOM EVENT LOUNGE 1745 Defoor Place 4043557518
LeChic Mystique "The Saga Continues... 10 p.m. $10.00

SUN., JANUARY 26

Rock/Pop

CENTER STAGE 1374 W. Peachtree St. 404-885-1365
Laurie Berkner 2 p.m. $24-$34

EDDIE'S ATTIC 515-B N. McDonough St. 404-377-4976
School of Rock 11 a.m. Free

THE DRUNKEN UNICORN 736 Ponce de Leon Ave.
Great American Noise Jihad, Meek Freaks 9 p.m. $5

VARIETY PLAYHOUSE 1099 Euclid Ave. 404-524-7354
Mount Moriah 8 p.m. $15-$18

Hip-hop/Soul

WONDERROOT 982 Memorial Drive 404-254-5955
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See Soundmenu p.40

More on the Web: More concert listings online at clatl.com

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WEDS, JAN 29 ..... SCOTT GLAZER'S MOJO DOJO

THU, JAN 30 ..... SANDRA HALL

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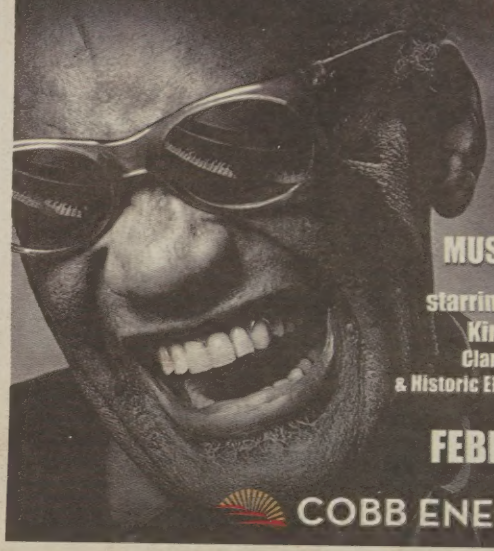

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FRI JAN 24 DOORS AT 9PM $7 COVER — DEGRADATIONS (CD RELEASE) DEMONAUT | PALACES HALMOS | DEAD FIERO

SAT JAN 25 DOORS AT 9PM $10 COVER — BOOBIEPALOOZA A BREAST CANCER BENEFIT THE COATHANGERS TIKKA | SHANTIH SHANTIH | DJ ALICE KIM HOSTED BY SAMM SEVERIN

MON JAN 27 DOORS AT 8:30PM NO COVER — MONDAY NIGHT COMEDY HOSTED BY ROTKNEE & FRIENDS

TUES JAN 28 DOORS AT 9PM $5 AFTER 11PM — SHUT UP & DANCE WITH DJS ROMEO COLOGNE & QUASI MANDISCO

WED JAN 29 DOORS AT 9PM $6 COVER — THE MAD FLIGHT MISERY LOVES CHACHI WHERE.ARE.WE

THURS JAN 30 DOORS AT 9PM FREE SHOW — THIRSTY MCPHERSON PRESENTS MIGRANT WORKER SAILING TO DENVER TODD PRUSIN EXPERIENCE

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SAT, JAN 25, 8:30PM

AMY RAY
HEATHER MCENTIRE OF MOUNT MORIAH
SUN, JAN 26, 8PM

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THE ULTIMATE LED ZEPPELIN TRIBUTE
FRI, JAN 31, 8:30PM
SAT, FEB 1, 8:30PM

ANGELIQUE KIDJO
FRI, FEB 7, 8:30PM

DAVE MASON'S TRAFFIC JAM
THUR, FEB 13, 8PM

AEG LIVE PRESENTS JIM JEFFERIES
FRI, FEB 14, 8PM

OK PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS SHARON JONES & THE DAP KINGS
VALERIE JUNE
SAT, FEB 15, 8:30PM

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THUR, FEB 20, 8PM

DELBERT McCLINTON
FRI, FEB 21, 8:30PM

G LOVE & SPECIAL SAUCE
SAT, FEB 22, 8:30PM

OLIVER MTUKUDZI & THE BLACK SPIRITS
WED, FEB 26, 8PM

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PARACHUTE

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Thursday, January 23 - 8:00pm

MATTHEW MAYFIELD
Friday, January 24 - 7:30pm

SUSI FRENCH CONNECTION
FIRST SHOW 7:00PM • SECOND SHOW 9:30PM
Saturday, January 25

CATIE CURTIS
WITH SPECIAL GUEST, HANNAH THOMAS
Sunday, January 26 - 7:00pm

ERICK BAKER
Sunday, January 26 - 9:15pm

SONGWRITER'S OPEN MIC
Monday, January 27 - 7:30pm

ROBYN HITCHCOCK
WITH SPECIAL GUEST, FAYE WEBSTER
TUES JAN 28 8:00PM • WED JAN 29 8:00PM

CARRIE RODRIGUEZ
Thursday, January 30 - 7:30pm

MOCKINGBIRD SUN
Thursday, January 30 - 10:00pm

THE RANDALL BRAMBLETT BAND
Friday, January 31 - 8:00pm

WILLIE SUGARCAPPS
Saturday, February 1

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Saturday, February 1

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COURTESY DANIEL BACHMAN

DANIEL BACHMAN

Daniel Bachman is bringing his acoustic six-string and lap guitars back to town for an evening of enthralling flatpicking and modal reverberation on Fri., **Jan. 24**. Relentlessly touring in support of *Jesus I'm a Sinner* (Tompkins Square), Bachman has been working on a new album for a spring release via Bathetic Records. Anyone who has ever reveled in the mesmerizing music of John Fahey, Leo Kottke, or Robbie Basho must hear this young man play. *With Trey Wright. $8-$10. 8 p.m. Red Light Café, 553 Amsterdam Ave. 404-874-7828. www.redlightcafe.com.* — **DOUG DELOACH**

Soundmenu from p.38

Blues/Jazz

STEVE'S LIVE MUSIC 234 Hilderbrand Dr. 404-441-9475
BVQ instrumental Sunday Brunch 1 p.m. $16
Maryline Blackburn, Ryan Whitehead 6 p.m. $12

Folk/Country

EDDIE'S ATTIC 515-B N. McDonough St. 404-377-4976
Catie Curtis, Hannah Thomas 7 p.m. $18-$23
Erick Baker 9:15 p.m. $12-$16
VARIETY PLAYHOUSE 1099 Euclid Ave. 404-524-7354
Amy Ray 8 p.m. $15-$17.50

MON., JANUARY 27

Rock/Pop

529 529 Flat Shoals Ave. 404-228-6769
Lowbanks, Gunther Doug, Freezerburn 9 p.m. Free
MASQUERADE 695 North Ave. 404-577-8178
Falling In Reverse 6 p.m. $20

TUES., JANUARY 28

Rock/Pop

529 529 Flat Shoals Ave. 404-228-6769
Turbo Fruits, Concord America, the Marrows 9 p.m. $6
MASQUERADE 695 North Ave. 404-577-8178
Delorean, Until the Ribbon Breaks 7 p.m. $14

Hip-hop/Soul

VINYL 1374 W. Peachtree St. 404-885-1365
Nipsey Hussle 8 p.m. $15-$20

Blues/Jazz

BLIND WILLIE'S 828 N. Highland Ave. 404-873-2583
Timo Arthur 9:30 p.m. $5
SMITH'S OLDE BAR 1578 Piedmont Ave. 404-875-1522
Tommy Castro & the Painkillers 9 p.m. $17.50-$20

Folk/Country

DIXIE TAVERN 2319 Windy Hill Rd SE
Clayton Lee 8 p.m.
EDDIE'S ATTIC 515-B N. McDonough St. 404-377-4976
Robyn Hitchcock, Faye Webster 8 p.m.; Jan. 29, 8 p.m. $20-$24
STEVE'S LIVE MUSIC 234 Hilderbrand Dr 404-441-9475
Locust Honey String Band, Burnt Mountain Benders 8 p.m.

WED., JANUARY 29

Rock/Pop

THE EARL 488 Flat Shoals Ave. 404-522-3950
Ben Trickey, Madeline, Montanus 8:30 p.m. $7
MASQUERADE 695 North Ave. 404-577-8178
Nekromantix, Creepshow, Ganges Phalanges 7 p.m. $13
SMITH'S OLDE BAR 1578 Piedmont Ave. 404-875-1522
Brooks Robinson & Some Machine, Cold Start, Diet December 7 p.m. $5

Hip-hop/Soul

529 529 Flat Shoals Ave. 404-228-6769
A-Plus (Souls of Mischief), DT, Knife, Quanstar 9 p.m. $8

Folk/Country

DIXIE TAVERN 2319 Windy Hill Rd SE
Todd Wells Band 9 p.m.
TERMINAL WEST 887 W. Marietta St., C 404-876-5566
Gaelic Storm 8 p.m. $17.50-$20
VINYL 1374 W. Peachtree St. 404-885-1365
Neulore, Swear and Shake 8 p.m. $8-$10

Electronic/DJ

THE DRUNKEN UNICORN 736 Ponce de Leon Ave.
AV8R, Skymatic & Robbie Dude 9 p.m. $5 adv / $7 DOS
UNION EAV 485 Flat Shoals Ave. 678-387-8324
Uprise's Birthday ft. Ricky Raw, Charlie P. 10 p.m.

NEED DIRECTIONS?

Bands/performers/venues wishing to be included in Sound Menu's noted-acts boxes may send recordings, press material and schedules two weeks in advance to Creative Loafing c/o Chad Radford, 115 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Suite 301, Atlanta, GA 30303, or e-mail information to: chad.radford@creativeloafing.com. To be considered for the listings only, e-mail venue and band schedules by Friday at noon (for the issue that comes out the following Thursday) to soundboard@creativeloafing.com.

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Pets for Adoption 3512

PET OF THE WEEK

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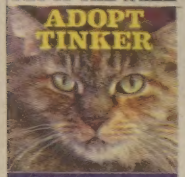

Available for adoption from PAWS Atlanta.

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3701 MISC. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Miscellaneous 3735

Entrepreneur & activist, Michele Hambright-Bowie

will be a guest on POW! Positive Outreach for Women (online Radio Show) to discuss Mental Health Awareness: Stigmas, Reforms, and Resources.

Date: Sunday January 26, 2014

Time: 6:30pm (est)

Location: http://www.blogtalkradio.com/positive-outlook4women

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Classes/Seminars/ Workshops 5315

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Aquarius

The Water-Bearer (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

The Aquarian author Georges Simenon wrote more than 200 novels under his own name and 300 more under pseudonyms. On average, he finished a new book every 11 days. Half a billion copies of his books are in print. I don't think you will ever be as prolific in your own chosen field as he was. However, your productivity could soar to a hefty fraction of Simenon-like levels in 2014. Your luxuriant fruitfulness won't come as easily as his seemed to. But you should be overjoyed that you at least have the potential to be luxuriantly fruitful.

BY ROB BREZSNY

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20)*: When I'm older and wiser, maybe I'll understand the meaning of my life. When I'm older and wiser, maybe I'll gain some insight about why I'm so excited to be alive despite the fact that my destiny is so utterly mysterious. What about you? What will be different for you when you're older and wiser? Now is an excellent time to ponder this riddle. Why? Because it's likely you will get a glimpse of the person you will become — which will in turn intensify your motivation to become that person.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19)*: Actor Casey Affleck appreciates the nurturing power of his loved ones. "My family would be supportive," he says, "if I said I wanted to be a Martian, wear only banana skins, make love to ashtrays, and eat tree bark." I'd like to see you cultivate allies like that in the coming months. For best results, tinker with your understanding of who your family might be. Redefine what "community" means to you.

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20)*: Author John Koenig says we often regard emotions as positive or negative. Feeling respect is good, for example, while being wracked with jealousy is bad. But he favors a different standard for evaluating emotions: how intense they are. At one end of the spectrum, everything feels blank and blah, even the big things. "At the other end is wonder," he says, "in which everything feels alive, even the little things." Strive for the latter kind: full-on intensity and maximum vitality. Luckily, the universe will be conspiring to help you achieve that goal.

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20)*: At her blog other-wordly.tumblr.com, Yee-Lum Mak defines the Swedish word *resfeber* this way: "the restless race of the traveler's heart before the journey begins, when anxiety and anticipation are tangled together." You might be experiencing *resfeber* right now. Even if you're not about to depart on a literal trip, I'm guessing you will soon start wandering out on a quest that will bring your heart and mind closer together. Paradoxically, your explorations will teach you a lot about being better grounded.

CANCER *(June 21-July 22)*: How does a monarch butterfly escape its chrysalis when it has finished gestating? Through tiny holes in the skin of the chrysalis, it takes big gulps of air and sends them directly into its digestive system, which expands forcefully. Its body gets so big it breaks free. When a chick is ready to emerge from inside its egg, it has to work harder than the butterfly. With its beak, it must peck thousands of times at the shell, stopping to rest along the way because the process is so demanding. You're nearing the final stage before your metaphorical emergence from gestation. Are you more like the butterfly or chick?

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22)*: "I'm not sure where to go from here. I need help." I encourage you to say those words out loud. Even if you're not sure you believe they're true, act as if they are. I think it would be healthy for you to ask for assistance. It would relieve you of the oppressive pressure to be a masterful problem-solver. It could free you from the unrealistic notion that you've got to figure everything out by yourself. And this would bring you interesting offers and inquiries. In other words, if you confess your neediness, you will attract help. Some of it will be useless, but most of it will be useful.

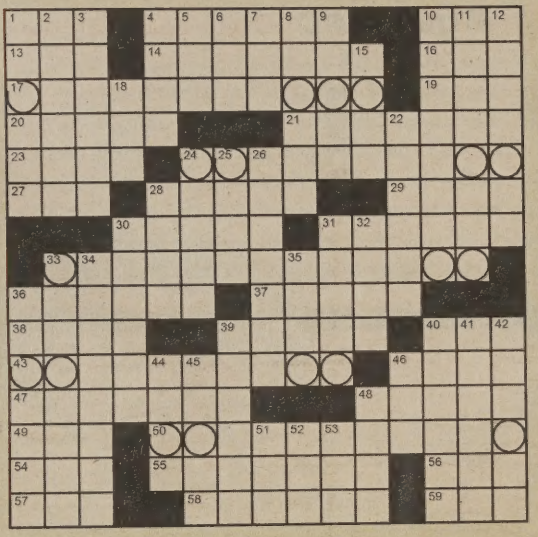
VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)*: Dogs have a superb sense of smell, much better than we humans. But ours isn't bad. We can detect certain odors that have been diluted to one part in five billion. If you were standing next to two Olympic-size swimming pools, and only one contained a few drops of the chemical ethyl mercaptan, you would know which one it was. There's a situation in the early stages of unfolding that would ultimately emanate a big stink if you allowed it to keep developing. There is a second unripe situation, on the other hand, that would eventually yield fragrant blooms. I advise you to either quash or escape from the first, even as you cultivate and treasure the second.

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)*: Whatever adventures may flow your way in the coming weeks, I hope you will appreciate them for what they are: unruly but basically benevolent; disruptive in ways that catalyze welcome transformations; a bit more exciting than you might like, but ultimately pretty fun. Can you thrive on the paradoxes? When you look back at these plot twists two months from now, I bet you'll see them as entertaining story lines that enhance the myth of your hero's journey. You'll understand them as tricky gifts that have taught you valuable secrets about your soul's code.

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)*: Manufacturing a jelly bean is not a quick, slam-bam process. It's a five-step procedure that takes a week. Each piece of candy has to be built up layer by layer, with every layer needing time to fully mature. I'm wondering if maybe there's a metaphorically similar kind of work ahead for you. May I speculate? You will have to take your time, proceed carefully, and maintain a close attention to detail as you prepare a simple pleasure.

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)*: I understand the appeal of the f-word. It's a perverse form of celebration that frees speakers from their inhibitions. But I'm here today to announce that its rebel cachet and vulgar power are extinct. Its official death-from-oversaturation occurred with the release of the Hollywood blockbuster *The Wolf of Wall Street*. Actors in the film spat out the rhymes-with-cluck word more than 500 times. I hereby nominate you Sagittarians to begin the quest for new ways to invoke rebellious irreverence. What naughty wordplay might you perpetrate to escape your inhibitions, break taboos that need to be broken, and call other people on their BS and hypocrisy?

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)*: German philosopher Immanuel Kant has had a major impact on the development of ideas in the Western world. We can reasonably divide the history of philosophy into two eras: pre-Kantian and post-Kantian. Yet for his whole life, he never traveled more than 10 miles away from Konigsberg, the city where he was born. You could have a similar experience in the coming weeks. By sticking close to the tried-and-true rhythms that keep you grounded, you can generate influential wonders.



Jonesin' BY MATT JONES

"In the Cards" — I'm kind of a big deal.

Across

1 Drill sergeant's syllable
4 Formal promise?
10 Casablanca's country: abbr.
13 Land on the Med. Sea
14 He wrote of Walden Pond
16 Diminutive ending, in Italian
17 Pop artist who used faceless stick figures
19 Big shot in the office
20 Serial piece
21 Budget brand of Intel CPUs
23 "Comfortably ___" (Pink Floyd)
24 Jazz great with the album "High Priestess of Soul"
27 Location finder, briefly
28 High-rated search engine, once
29 Hip hop fan, maybe
30 Increasingly hard to find net surfer
31 Calvin and Naomi
33 "The Devil's Dictionary" author
36 ___ and Guilder (warring "The Princess Bride" nations)
37 They may include twists
38 Dip ___ in the water
39 Handout after a checkup
40 Choke, or a joke
43 15th-century Flemish painter
46 "Damn Yankees" vamp
47 Vlad, as the legend goes
48 Green energy type
49 You, to Yves
50 He played Locke on "Lost"
54 "I'd like to buy ___" ("Wheel" request)
55 With great skill
56 Battle (for)
57 Ave. crossers
58 Had a debate
59 Superlative ending

Down

1 Outdoors activity
2 Depletes
3 Rainbow creators
4 "Am ___ only one?"
5 "Keep it down!"
6 Condo grp.
7 Part of ETA
8 German cameras
9 Highway sections
10 Of small organisms
11 Two-person basketball game
12 Andy and Mickey
15 "Unattractive" citrus
18 Margarine holder
22 Campfire remains
24 Parachute fabric
25 Finishes a cake
26 Message response that's not really a response
28 "Footloose" actress Singer
30 Cold sore-fighting brand in a tiny tube
31 Mall booth
32 "___ get this party started"
33 "Gimme Shelter" speedway
34 Oft-mocked treats
35 "Helicopter" band ___ Party
36 Dish served with a distinct sound
39 "Cyrano de Bergerac" star Jose
40 Become available to the general public, as a new website
41 "Thank U" singer Morissette
42 January birthstone
44 Utah ski resort
45 "I ___ drink!"
46 Reed recently deceased
48 Flooring meas.
51 D&D, e.g.
52 "___ Mama Tambien"
53 "Bravo, matador!"

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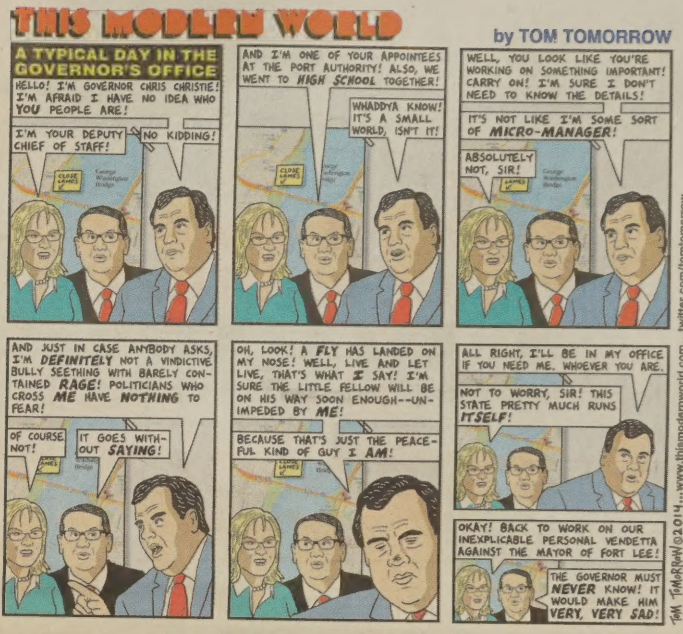
Solution to last week's puzzle

B	E	R	T	H			B	A	H		B	L	U	R
A	C	E	O	U	T		O	N	E		E	A	S	E
C	H	A	R	R	O		R	O	I		A	P	E	X
H	O	M	E	R	U	N	G	I	G	E	R			
			N	A	P	E		N	H	L		S	C	I
S	O	U	T	H	E	A	S	T	H	I	N	T	O	N
A	H	L		S	E	T	H		O	N	W	A	R	D
V	E	T	S			O	A	K			A	N	D	I
I	N	R	O	A	D			M	E	I	R		Z	A	G
O	R	A	N	G	E	J	U	I	C	E	M	A	Y	O
N	Y	S		R	E	O		R	Y	N	E			
			P	A	J	A	M	A	H	A	R	V	E	Y
T	O	F	U		A	N	A		O	M	E	A	R	A
O	W	E	N		Y	I	N		T	E	L	L	O	N
N	E	W	S		S	E	X			D	Y	S	O	N


THIS MODERN WORLD
by TOM TOMORROW
A TYPICAL DAY IN THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
HELLO! I'M GOVERNOR CHRIS CHRISTIE! I'M AFRAID I HAVE NO IDEA WHO YOU PEOPLE ARE!
I'M YOUR DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF!
NO KIDDING!
AND I'M ONE OF YOUR APPOINTEES AT THE PORT AUTHORITY! ALSO, WE WENT TO HIGH SCHOOL TOGETHER!
WHADDYA KNOW! IT'S A SMALL WORLD, ISN'T IT!
WELL, YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE WORKING ON SOMETHING IMPORTANT! CARRY ON! I'M SURE I DON'T NEED TO KNOW THE DETAILS!
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M SOME SORT OF MICRO-MANAGER!
ABSOLUTELY NOT, SIR!
AND JUST IN CASE ANYBODY ASKS, I'M DEFINITELY NOT A VINDICTIVE BULLY SEETHING WITH BARELY CONTAINED RAGE! POLITICIANS WHO CROSS ME HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR!
OF COURSE NOT!
IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING!
OH, LOOK! A FLY HAS LANDED ON MY NOSE! WELL, LIVE AND LET LIVE, THAT'S WHAT I SAY! I'M SURE THE LITTLE FELLOW WILL BE ON HIS WAY SOON ENOUGH--UNIMPEDED BY ME!
BECAUSE THAT'S JUST THE PEACEFUL KIND OF GUY I AM!
ALL RIGHT, I'LL BE IN MY OFFICE IF YOU NEED ME. WHOEVER YOU ARE.
NOT TO WORRY, SIR! THIS STATE PRETTY MUCH RUNS ITSELF!
OKAY! BACK TO WORK ON OUR INEXPLICABLE PERSONAL VENDETTA AGAINST THE MAYOR OF FORT LEE!
THE GOVERNOR MUST NEVER KNOW! IT WOULD MAKE HIM VERY, VERY SAD!
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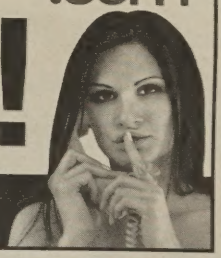

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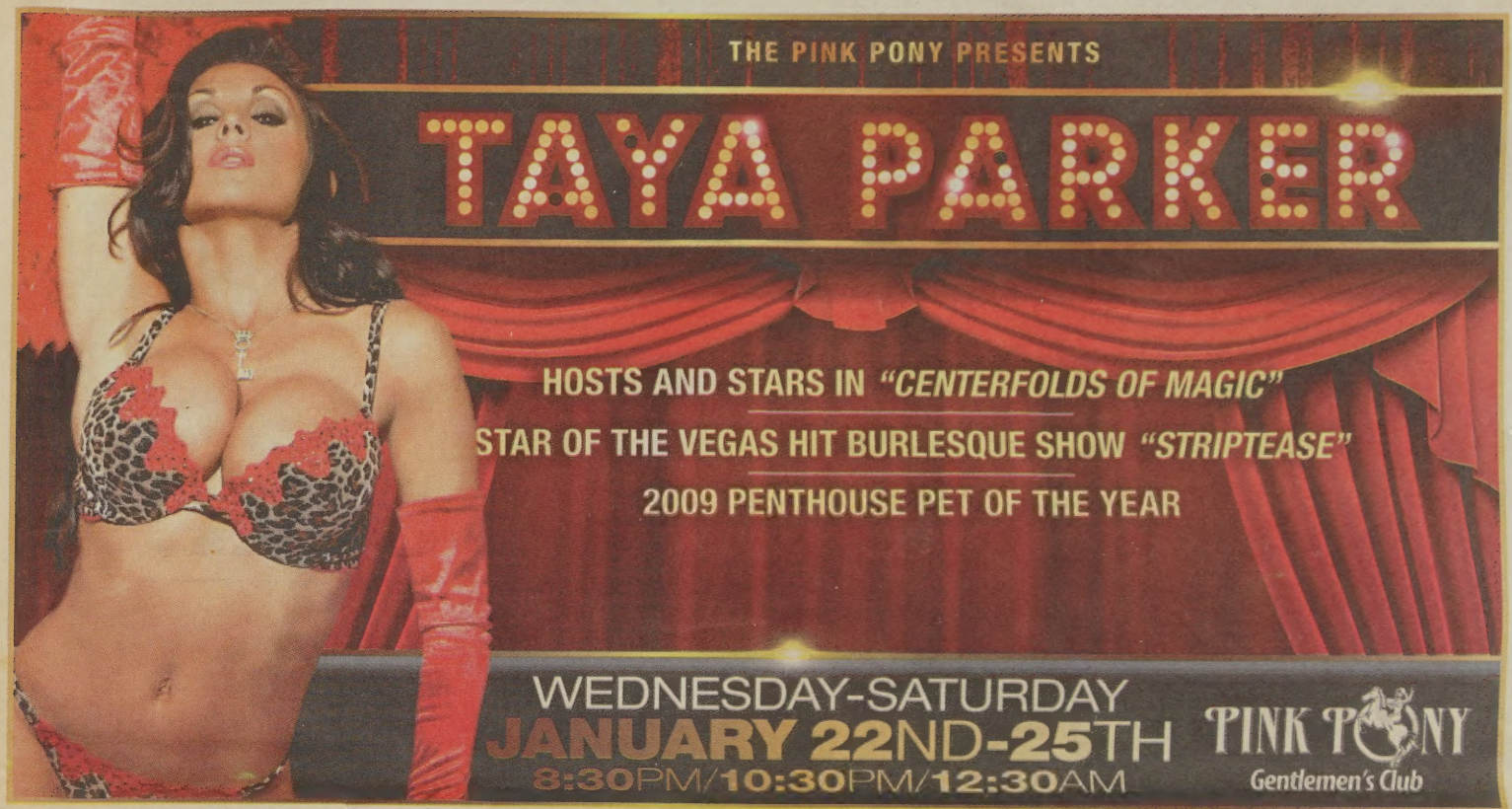
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Meet Alice.

She's a 21-year-old Japanese-American born in Zushi, a small beach town about an hour south of Tokyo. Alice spent her childhood in Beijing, her teens in LA, and the past four years studying Economics and Law in Tokyo. In all this travel she has learned to speak English, Japanese, Chinese, and Spanish fluently. Until she was 4, Alice planned to be a mermaid when she grew up, but has since decided that she would prefer to be an Environmental Lawyer in San Francisco. Alice may seem petite, but this young woman has been practicing Aikido for the past 8 years and can pretty much take anyone down. In her spare time, Alice likes to hang out with her friends either at the beach playing volleyball or Frisbee, out singing karaoke, or eating Dim Sum. She also loves watching classic black and white films, particularly those starring Katharine Hepburn. And of course, she has recently picked up the new hobby of modeling for us, which she has a lot of fun doing.